

****Press release for immediate release****

Transform Ageing social venture ‘The Sewing Rooms’ calls women and girls of Lancashire to sew a stitch in time and help to create a banner to celebrate the centenary of the “right to vote”

The 6th of February 2018 marked the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, which was a landmark moment in our nation’s history. On this day, 100 years ago some British women gained their right to vote, a critical point for women’s equality and British democracy.

In celebration of this momentous anniversary, Skelmersdale based social venture ‘The Sewing Rooms’ is calling on women and girls from across the region to join them on April 14th to help with the creation of a banner, which will then join the 100-strong banner procession on June 10th. The procession will be a celebration of the fight for suffrage, expressing what it means to be a woman today, and will take place across Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London.

Director of The Sewing Rooms, Paula Gamester said, “We were keen to be a part of the Processions celebration, not only because it is a wonderful initiative to be involved with, but also because it brings together all the elements of what we are about as a social enterprise working with women in communities. The feeling of empowerment, belonging, and togetherness that is achieved by the women as they engage in teaching, and sewing is second to none, as it further encourages the group to demonstrate their creativity as they connect with each other.”

As well as their work across Lancashire, The Sewing Rooms is one of 19 ventures supported by Transform Ageing, a first-of-its-kind initiative to change the way society approaches and designs services for people in later life.

Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK, Transform Ageing takes a community and design-led approach to improve people’s experience of ageing.

Transform Ageing is focused on the south-west of England. It is being delivered by UnLtd,

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the foundation for social entrepreneurs, Design Council, Centre for Ageing Better and the South West Academic Health Science Network.

With support from Transform Ageing 'The Sewing Rooms' will be able to set up their service in the South West so that these communities can benefit from the expert assistance from a social enterprise, specialising in improving the health and wellbeing of the communities they work with, and improving peoples' life chances.

Head of Social Innovation at Design Council, Fiona Wood said *'We are delighted to see The Sewing Rooms involvement in this historic event, and their work to engage women and girls from across the local area is, to celebrate this impactful moment in our nation's history is wonderful. We look forward to seeing the banner in its final form, and to welcoming The Sewing Rooms to the South West'*

Details:

Date: April 14th, 2018

Time: Between 11am and 3pm

Location: Skelmersdale library, Lancashire

Activity information:

[The Sewing Rooms](#) invite women and girls from Skelmersdale and across Lancashire to help create a banner to celebrate the centenary anniversary of the Representation of the Peoples Act and some women getting the vote.

This banner will then join the one hundred centenary banners for [PROCESSIONS](#) as part of an extensive public programme of creative workshops across Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London on Sunday June 10th, 2018.

For further information on the open day, please contact:

Paula Gamester

Ph: 01695 550772

Email: paula@the-sewing-rooms.co.uk

Web: www.the-sewing-rooms.co.uk

Twitter: @SewFabAcademy

Ends

Editor's notes

Transform Ageing is delivered by:



For more information, contact Paul Drury-Bradey on 0754 593 3810 or email PaulDrury-Bradey@unltd.org.uk / comms@unltd.org.uk

About UnLtd, the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs

UnLtd funds and support passionate and committed social entrepreneurs who are determined to tackle the key issues facing society.

UnLtd began in 2002 and since then has given out over 13,000 awards of support and funding, direct and through partners, to social entrepreneurs to start up and scale their impact. It supports individuals running ventures firmly rooted in delivering positive social change.

On top of this, UnLtd has developed a vibrant network of supporters in the UK and across the globe and is at the heart of a thriving movement for social change. Social entrepreneurs have solutions to some of the most pressing issues faced by society. UnLtd brings together insight and innovation from across the world so that social entrepreneurs can fulfil their potential to change the UK for the better.

For more information about the support offered by UnLtd go to www.unltd.org.uk

Twitter: @UnLtd

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About The Sewing Rooms

The Sewing Rooms Social Enterprise trades to tackle social problems. We do this through a manufacturing dept that makes bespoke soft furnishings for private and corporate clients. Profits generated through our commercial activities fund The Sew

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Fab Academy that provides skills training, employability and wellbeing initiatives for the most vulnerable in the communities where they work. Design Council is a charity which is recognised as a leading authority on the use of strategic design as a tool to tackle major societal challenges, drive economic growth and innovation, and improve the quality of the built environment. Design Council, which is the Government's advisor on design, addressing all aspects of the discipline, including product, service, user experience and design in the built environment.

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For more information on Design Council, contact Abid Gangat

Design Council – Media and Communications Manager

Email: Abid.Gangat@designcouncil.org.uk

Ph: 07833182159

www.designcouncil.org.uk

About Centre for Ageing Better

The Centre for Ageing Better is an independent charitable foundation, bringing about change for people in later life today and for future generations. Practical solutions, research about what works best, and people's own insight are all sources that they draw on to help make this change. Ageing Better share this information and support others to act on it, as well as trying out new approaches to improving later lives. It

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received £50 million of National lottery funding from the Big Lottery Fund in January 2015 in the form of an endowment to enable it to identify what works in the ageing sector by bridging the gap between research, evidence and practice.

For more information go to www.ageing-better.org.uk

About South West Academic Health Science Network

The SW AHSN is dedicated to improving health and care, and spreading innovation across the region. It is one of a national network of 15 AHSNs, set up by NHS England to identify, adopt and disseminate innovative health and care. The organisation's mission is 'to improve the health and patient experience of people in the South West by supporting and accelerating innovation and quality improvement'.

For more information go to www.swahsn.com

About Big Lottery Fund

Big Lottery Fund uses money raised by National Lottery players to help communities achieve their ambitions. From small, local projects to UK-wide initiatives, its funding brings people together to make a difference to their health, wellbeing and environment. Since June 2004 it has awarded £8.5 billion to projects that improve the lives of millions of people.

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