

Useful websites for VCS groups: Legal structures and advice

Control + click on the headings below to follow the link to each website.

[Charity Commission](#)

The Charity Commission is the independent Government department which registers and regulates charities in England and Wales.

[Community Shares](#)

Community shares are an ideal way for communities to invest in enterprises serving a community purpose

[Companies House](#)

The main functions of Companies House are to:

- incorporate and dissolve limited companies;
- examine and store company information delivered under the Companies Act and related legislation; and
- make this information available to the public.

[Co-operatives uk](#)

Co-operatives UK is the national trade body that campaigns for co-operation and works to promote, develop and unite co-operative enterprises.

[Financial Conduct Authority](#)

Regulates and registers co-operative societies, community benefit societies and former industrial and provident societies.

[Get Legal](#)

On-line resource which provides expert advice on legal structures and issues such as governance for charities, social enterprises and co-ops.

[LawWorks](#)

LawWorks is a charity which aims to provide free legal help to individuals and community groups who cannot afford to pay for it and who are unable to access legal aid.

[The Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies](#)

The Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies decides whether an organisation is eligible to become, or continue to be, a community interest company (CIC). It is responsible for investigating complaints - taking action if necessary - and it provides guidance and assistance to help people set up CICs..

Social Enterprise UK

The national body for social enterprise.

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Foundation for social entrepreneurs, a one stop shop for advice and support to help people get their community projects off the ground.

West Sussex Social Enterprise Network

WSSEN provides county-wide infrastructure support for social enterprise in West Sussex.