

Social Firms UK Annual Conference
Shaping The Future: Supportive Employment, Successful Businesses
28 June 2006

**WORKSHOP v: Self-Employment As An Option For People
With Mental Health Problems**
Facilitated by Bob Wallis

Notes by: Keith Bates

Background:

What is the experience to date? This workshop explores some of the findings from recent Phoenix-funded projects on mental health and self-employment and discusses how this option might be approached within future services.

Key Points:

- Fredericks Foundation offer business support and are a lender of last resort operating under Phoenix until March 06. Now in Wandsworth, Southwark and Lambeth (funded London Dev Agency)
- Referrals from usual sources including JC+ and self referral
- Significant support from Miles Rinaldi (SW London and St Georges Mental health NHS Trust)
- People with mental health problems tend to be seen much earlier on the planning spectrum than other clients. More input but less likely to need financial input.
- Input via individual assessment. Looks at normal set up process but includes benefits, housing, support etc
- Benefits issues remain but permitted work can be utilised to allow for soft start although may lead to under pricing
- Major issues – under pricing and negotiation/confrontation. Strategies devised to assist individuals