



## **West Sussex VOLG Social Enterprise Advisor for West Sussex Social Enterprise Network**

Name: **Mark Habibi**

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Qualifications: VRQ Level 5 Social Enterprise Advisors; MSc & BA in Economics;  
Postgraduate Certificate in Education

Geographical area: West Sussex

### **General experience:**

Having achieved his ILM Level 5 Award as a Social Enterprise Advisor, Mark has spent the past year visiting social enterprises around the county offering advice on funding, market research and strategy. Having run his own business for 3 years, Mark is aware of the potential pitfalls of sustaining a business over the long term, especially in the current tough trading environment. He has a background in Health & Social care where he has been helping in the establishment of a statutory body in Brighton & Hove and West Sussex which engages local people in monitoring care service delivery. Prior to that, Mark worked as an economist and educator in the UK, China, Malaysia and Kenya.

### **Social enterprise advisory experience:**

Mark has supported many social enterprises throughout the county in the last two years and offered a range of support, for instance to Councils for Voluntary Services, mental health and learning disability support organisations, and recyclers operating in various fields.

Support given includes:

- review of funding application to Big Lottery Fund
- sharing networking and collaborative opportunities with Social Enterprises seeking partnerships in current funding climate
- questionnaire design for market research for proposed extension of services
- funding searches using County Council website and identification of potential donors.