

As a participant what can I expect from the Growth Journey?

The core of the Growth Journey is a minimum of four one-to-one support sessions with a SPARK Accelerator social enterprise adviser.

These sessions will be up to two hours in duration and occur quarterly or bi-monthly depending on your speed of progression through the programme. Although the Accelerator is nominally a year in length you may progress through the programme more quickly.

Preparatory work and follow-up activities from each meeting are likely. You will also have access to remote support in between the meetings including email, phone, Skype or other methods in agreement with your adviser.

What happens in a meeting?

We know that social enterprises have many different issues affected by their stage of development, the business model, the founder's personal history, the financial status of the social enterprise and dozen other factors. It is not appropriate or indeed possible to have a one size fits all approach to social enterprise support.

Each session will follow a broadly similar format:

- Discover the issues at hand e.g. "finance"
- Define the problem clearly e.g. not "finance generally, but defending your gross margin as you enter the supply chain of a large multinational company"
- Develop appropriate solutions e.g. a research activity, a market test etc.
- Deliver the action – the tasks, resources and time you need to commit between now and the next session to process. This also includes scheduling in remote support to keep you on track and maintain your momentum

Each meeting, including the final meeting, has a brief action plan as its output. This is a document to guide your practical actions in the immediate future. You will, of course, also have a set of notes from the session provided by your adviser.