



bloom

The UK's professional services solution.

Social Value Report
2020

Local value
total spend

£27
million

88.9%
of suppliers with
SME status

£97
million
invoiced to local
suppliers

We gave

£2.6
million

back to the public
sector

£5,765
in charitable
donations

£3,009
in volunteering
equalling 200
hours

Recruiting
during the
COVID-19
pandemic

£19,000
apprenticeship
programme

27
jobs created
across the
business

26
tonnes
of CO² emissions
saved

Equating to
390
trees

£718k
total value jobs
created

The first procurement company to gain level 2 SV UK certificate



Total social value
embedded by Bloom
£28,293,552.65

The first year of the NEPRO³ contract seems to have passed us by in the blink of an eye, but a lot has happened and the social value that we have generated as a business is phenomenal. 2020 has seen social value rapidly climb up the agenda for public sector bodies. As the country builds back from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is increasing pressure on the public sector to better manage their social value efforts and deliver positive outcomes to the people, communities and economies that need it the most.

By putting SME and third sector organisations firmly at the heart of the UK's recovery strategy, the government can ensure that public money is being invested back into local communities and spent in a way that delivers tangible social impact, from the creation of local jobs and opportunities to increasing supply chain resilience.

As part of this strategy, the Cabinet Office has now released a new Procurement Policy Note (PPN 06/20) that requires central government bodies to go above and beyond the guidelines set out by the Social Value Act 2012, ensuring that all major procurements explicitly evaluate social value, rather than just consider it.

At Bloom, we have a proven track record in empowering central government and the wider public sector to deliver on their social value goals. By accessing our fully compliant open-access marketplace, public sector buyers can use their procurement spend to create a sustainable supply chain, drive growth back into local economics and, ultimately, change lives for the better.

Despite the economic challenges of COVID-19, we've continued to drive social value through the veins of Bloom. It's embedded within our systems, policies and processes, which has had a real positive impact on how we are able to measure, manage and maximise the social value that we can offer our customers and the communities they operate in.

Local Spend

Total value: £27,215,880.42

During the past year, our supply chain has continued to grow with a staggering 88.9% of those accredited suppliers being of SME status.

We also have a great number of VCSEs accredited, equating to 9.19% of the total figures. Around £97 million worth of projects have been awarded to local suppliers and those numbers continue to grow on a daily basis. Based on our current growth, this means that social value will be embedded into billions of pounds worth of public sector contracts within the next five years. Furthermore, almost 90% of our projects have been delivered by SMEs. This has allowed us to drive much-needed growth back into local economies from the public purse.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we made sure that we did absolutely everything we possibly could to ensure payments to suppliers were promptly actioned, paying out over £3 million worth of early payments to our supplier chain, ensuring they had the funds to be able to carry on with BAU through such a testing time. Bloom gave back over £2.6 million to the public sector, which has enabled them to create jobs, provide support to communitybased projects, etc We were the first procurement company to achieve Level 2 of the SV UK certificate and are currently working towards gaining Level 3.

As a socially responsible organisation, Bloom continuously seek to maximise the social value created. For us, this pathway is all about the process of change. The flexibility provided by the pathway has allowed us to think creatively, whilst proving our credentials.

Charitable Donations

Total value: £5,765

£97
Million
worth of projects
awarded to local
suppliers

We gave
£2.6
Million
to the public
sector

We've donated around £6k to local charities, including our chosen charity of 2020, MIND, who offers information and advice to people with mental health problems and lobbies government and local authorities on their behalf.

New Jobs

Total value: £718,286.40

We have created 27 jobs, recruiting across the entire business, and have continued to successfully do this during COVID-19. This is testament to our excellent, supportive team who have continued to induct, train and mentor virtually.

Apprentices

Total value: £19,711.20

September 2019 saw the launch of our Apprenticeship programme, which provides a fantastic career path into the world of procurement for our apprentices. Our team of procurement experts have already given over 600 hours of their time to mentor our apprentices, ensuring they have the support and guidance they need to work through their qualifications.

600
mentor hours

£19k
apprenticeship
programme

Volunteering

Total value: £3,009.90

We've volunteered over 200 hours of our time to great causes, including careers programmes, school governor positions, helping out at local food banks, serving in soup kitchens and supporting COVID-19 related charities such as NHS response call out (delivering prescriptions and shopping to those who are vulnerable). The Bloom team are hands-on and always willing to help.

£3,009.90

worth in volunteering

200

volunteering hours

Health & Wellbeing

Total value: £225,169.00

The wellbeing of our staff is extremely important to us. That's why we've invested in and implemented a fantastic programme offering a health care cash plan, mental health support tools and e-learning training. Over the month of May alone, the Bloom team allocated over 145 hours of their time to talk about mental health issues, including attending workshops, taking part in online training and lending a helping hand to one another during this challenging period. As part of our wellbeing programme, we have implemented our Cycle to Work scheme to promote healthy living and to encourage our staff to cycle rather than utilising public transport or their own vehicle. This also has a massive impact on the environment and will help to reduce the CO2 emissions used by the Bloom team.

Flexibility is also a massive key benefit for the staff at Bloom as we are all able to continue to deliver outcomes from wherever we feel most comfortable, whether that be at home, the office or somewhere with a lovely view.

Since lockdown started in March this year, Bloom have continued to take part in virtual roundtable discussions with our supply chain and have conducted webinars around topics such as social care, digital transformation, social value and supplier related queries. Lockdown did not slow our progress down and we have continued to engage with our stakeholders and colleagues more than ever before.

With our entire workforce working from home during COVID-19, Bloom managed to save more than 26 tonnes of CO₂e, equating to approximately 390 trees. The benefits on the environment have been amazing and, with that in mind, our flexible approach to working from home and also holding virtual meetings will continue.

As we move into year 2 of the NEPRO³ framework, we look forward to continuing to deliver on our social value programme, ensuring we deliver the best possible outcomes for our customers.

£225,169

total value

26

tonnes CO₂ saved

Equating to

390

trees