



Blackburne House Group



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Claire Dove named Coalition Chair



The Social Enterprise Coalition has named pioneering Liverpool-based entrepreneur Claire Dove as its new chair.

Claire Dove MBE, DL has been a key player in the social enterprise movement since the early 1980s and will replace outgoing Chair Baroness Glenys Thornton.

Ms Dove is the CEO of [Blackburne House Group](#), a training led organisation which runs a number of social enterprises providing career opportunities for women in non-traditional sectors such as construction and IT.

She has been extremely active in shaping the strategic direction of social enterprise policy at a national level since the inception of the Coalition and has also been a board member for over a year.

Jonathan Bland, chief executive of the Coalition said: "I am thrilled to be working with such a successful businesswoman and dedicated pioneer of the movement.

"Claire's achievements in Merseyside are tangible proof of how markets can be used to serve communities. The Coalition will be drawing on her wealth of experience to continue the fight to place social enterprise at the heart of the economy."

He added that a large amount of the Coalition's success so far has been due to the hard work of former chair Baroness Glenys Thornton, and thanked her for "her tireless campaigning for social enterprise over the years".

Ms Dove's entrepreneurial skills have helped Blackburne House grow into an award-winning and extremely successful business with social aims. It not only helps disadvantaged women into work but is self sufficient thanks to its flourishing conference facility, café, nursery, health club and design consultancy, all of which run on a profit.

Claire Dove said: "I am proud and privileged to be given this opportunity to continue the fantastic work started by Baroness Glenys Thornton.

"In the 1980's I used social enterprise to help break the barriers to women accessing careers in male dominated markets. Now I want to use those skills to help social enterprises gain the access they deserve to all markets - and close the current gap between political rhetoric and the reality on the ground.

"Social enterprise has come so far since the formation of the Coalition, and I look forward to playing a key role in harnessing the power of business for social change."

Notes:

For more information about Claire Dove or Blackburne House contact the Blackburne House Marketing Department on 0151 708 3914 or email lisamairah@blackburnehouse.co.uk