



NAME
MAUVA-HUNTE-BOWLBY

COMPANY
RIP AND KNIT

TITLE
FOUNDER

WEBSITE
RIPANDKNIT.CO.UK

PROFILE MAUVA-HUNTE-BOWLBY

If you would like to learn more about Senior Enterprise visit the website www.seniorenterprise.ie



Mauva Hunte-Bowlby, 51, decided to become self-employed and put her knitting and crocheting skills to good use

When Mauva found herself homeless and unemployed in her 50s she didn't see a way out. Despite applying for various jobs in support work she was unsuccessful and was unsure what her next step might be.

Mauva had been knitting and crocheting for 40 years as her mother taught her the skills from a young age. *'I always loved knitting and crocheting but never thought that I would end up doing it as a career!'* Having previously worked in learning and development Mauva thought that there must be some way to put her experience and knitting hobby to good use. With the help of St Mungo's charity she was able to obtain a 'Preparing to teach lifelong learning skills' qualification which set her on the right track to being able to teach knitting and crocheting to other people.

Having been homeless she wanted to help people who were in the same situation and decided to set up a knitting group which still continues today. Many members of the group were homeless or living in sheltered accommodation. She also managed to obtain some clients for whom she uses her knitting skills to create bespoke items or mend pieces which are damaged.

At this point, Mauva decided to hunt through the internet looking for help and advice for self-employed over 50s and stumbled across The Prince's Initiative. After registering with us she received one of our welcome packs which advised her on next steps. *'The Prince's Initiative has been so brilliant; I have felt so supported throughout my journey into self-employment. The welcome pack offered a real structure and focussed my thoughts in the right direction.'* Mauva also attends our networking events which she finds really inspiring. *'I couldn't recommend*

the networking events enough. I have really enjoyed talking with other entrepreneurs over 50 who are in the same boat - It's a real support network.' Mauva is also hoping to attend one of our workshops to help her take her knitting business to the next level.

In the future, Mauva hopes to be able to grow her knitting groups within the homeless sector through offering training sessions. She believes that giving skills to people who are homeless has a huge effect on their happiness, offering them structure during a low point in their lives. She also maintains that groups such as hers help homeless people with feelings of isolation and depression because they are surrounded by others who are going through a similar situation.

If you want to find out more about Mauva, check out her website www.ripandknit.co.uk

> STARTING & PARTNERING

> INVESTING & ACQUIRING

> ADVISING & INNOVATING

