



Liam Black

Liam is co-creator of Wavelength Companies Ltd, which collides the best of the world's private sector with pioneering social entrepreneurs.

Until recently, Liam was the CEO of Fifteen. Created by Jamie Oliver in 2002, Fifteen offers troubled young people transformational opportunities through its unique chef apprenticeship and personal development programmes. Liam grew

Fifteen into a successful and profitable global brand: Fifteen Amsterdam was opened in 2004, Cornwall and Melbourne launched in 2006, and there are plans for more.

Liam has held several high profile social enterprise leadership positions including CEO at Liverpool's FRC Group (from 1997 to 2004), widely seen as one of the UK's pioneering social businesses. During his time in the city, Liam led in the founding of businesses such as Bulky Bob's and Create, which have provided livelihoods for hundreds of formerly unemployed people. FRC and Liam received many awards for the growth and diversification of the business and its commitment to a values-based culture.

Through another of his companies, the Cat's Pyjamas, Liam created and nourished international networks of social business leaders in Europe, North America and Africa. He is the author of *There's No Business Like Social Business* published in May 2004.

In 2008, Liam is part of Channel 4's Street Weapons Commission, investigating the violence amongst young people on the streets of Britain's cities. He is particularly looking at the role business can play in creating better options for youth.

Liam is a highly engaging speaker - funny, passionate, insightful, full of learning, based upon his experiences at the sharp end of businesses trading for a social purpose in industries as diverse as waste management and top end celebrity restaurants.

Recent speaking engagements include presentations to Motorola's top 200 managers in Chicago on globalisation and the social entrepreneur, in Edinburgh to Royal Bank of Scotland's fraud division on trust and leadership, to hundreds of entrepreneurs in Vancouver on using their talent to change the world, to the staff of the Cabinet Office about innovation and, in the City, to investors and senior government ministers about the future of business.

With Maggie, he has three children Matthew, Conor, and Caitriona and a mad terrier called Molly.