


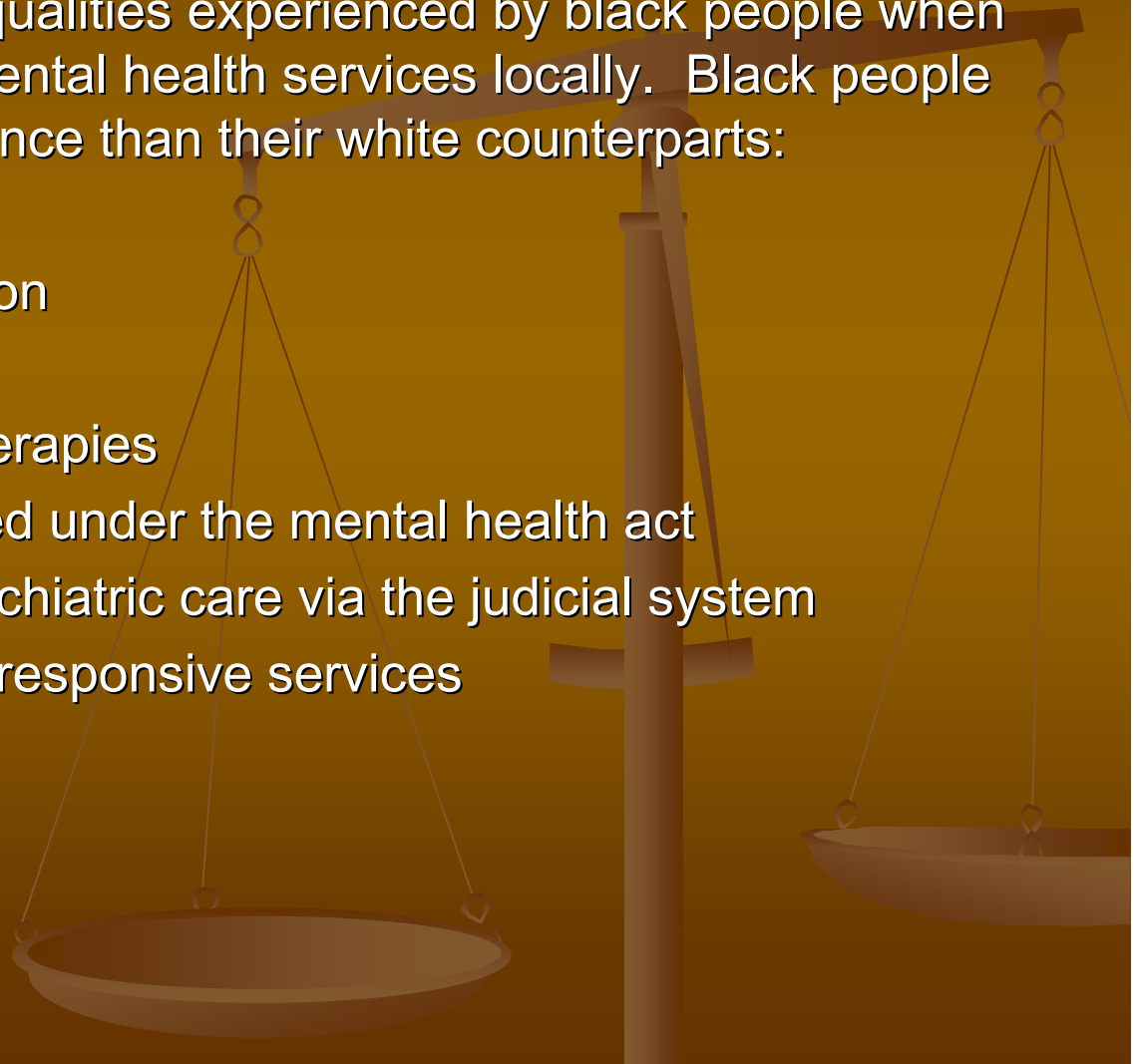
# Background to the Kuumba Foundation 1

- KF is a Voluntary sector organisation based in West Bromwich in the Borough of Sandwell in the West Midlands
  - KF provides a range of culturally responsive services to meet the needs of adults who are of African and African Caribbean descent and their significant others to promote recovery and well being
  - KF currently provides 4 services:
    - ❖ Outreach Support
    - ❖ Drop in Centre
    - ❖ Employment Support
    - ❖ Counselling
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# Background to the Kuumba Foundation 2

KF exists to redress the inequalities experienced by black people when accessing mainstream mental health services locally. Black people are more likely to experience than their white counterparts:

- Higher doses of medication
- Misdiagnosis
- Less access to talking therapies
- More likely to be sectioned under the mental health act
- More likely to access psychiatric care via the judicial system
- Poor access to culturally responsive services



# Why a Social Firm 1?

The KF's reasons for wanting to establish a social firm are two fold:

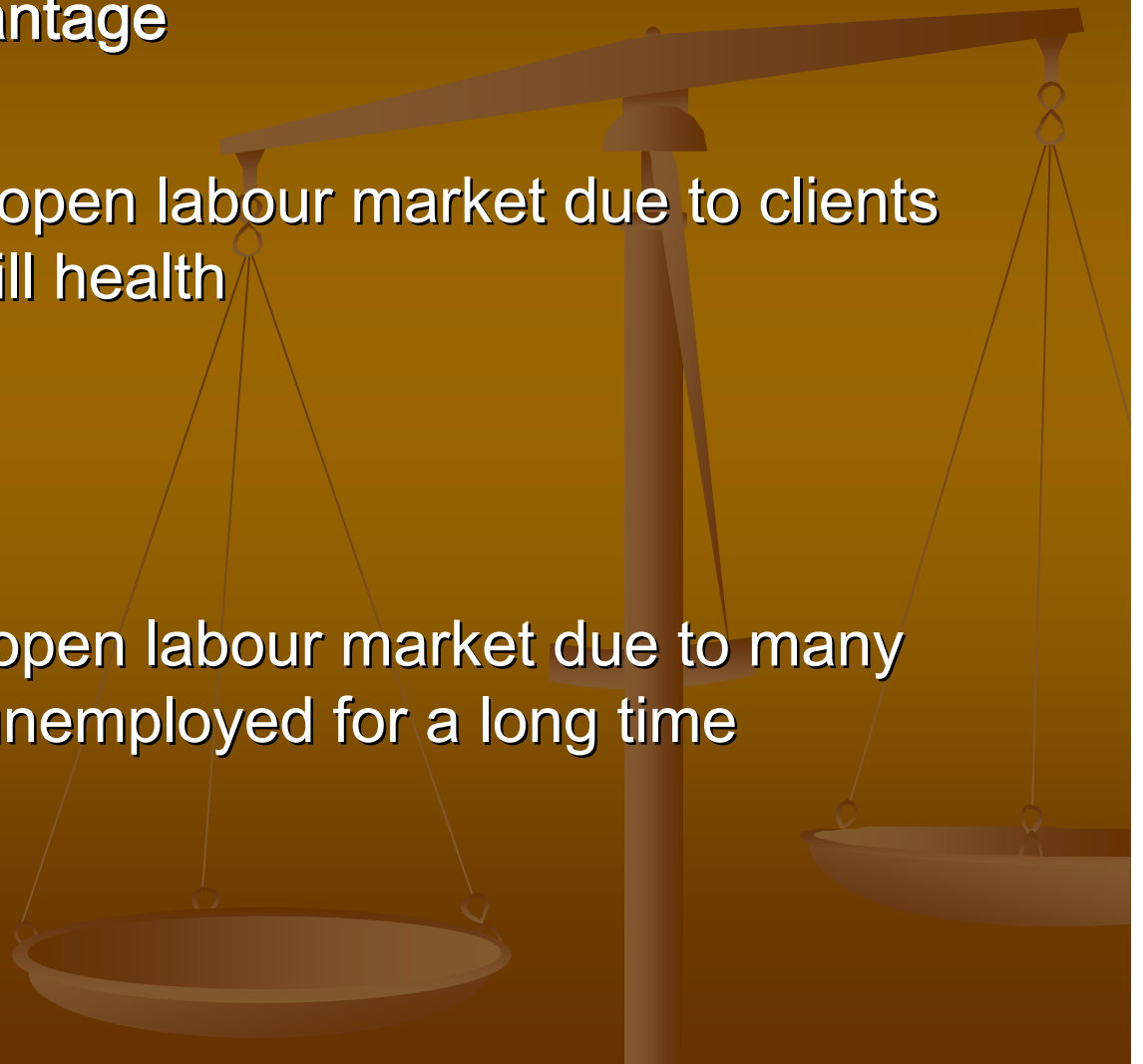
1. To increase employment opportunities for our clients
2. To increase organisational sustainability



# Why a Social Firm 2 ?

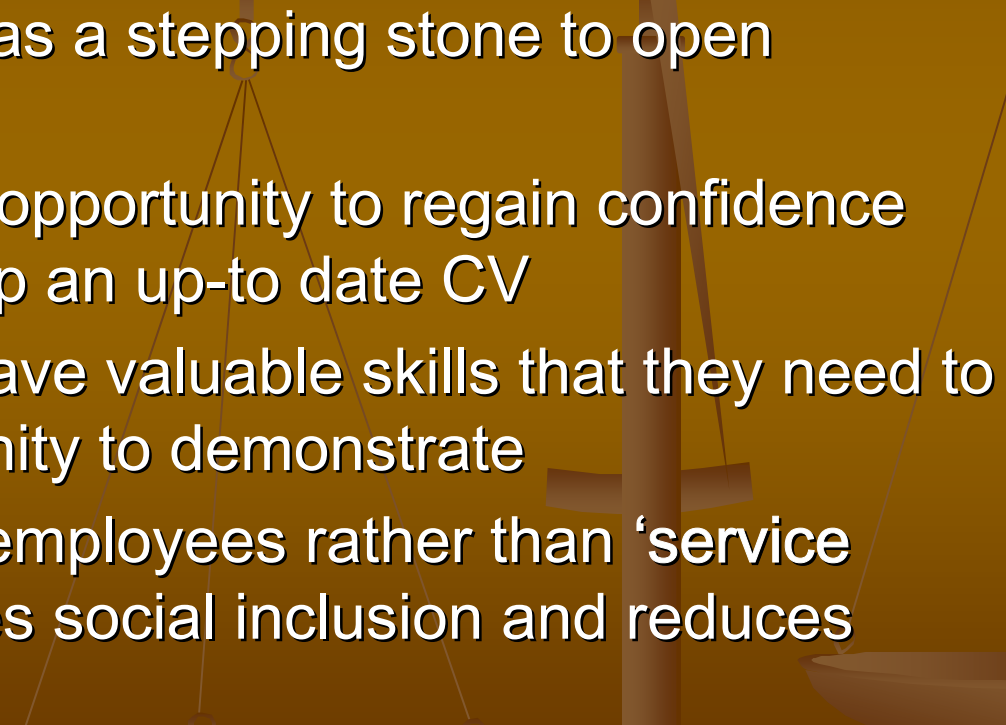
## Client reasons: Disadvantage

- Discrimination in the open labour market due to clients experiencing mental ill health
- Racial discrimination
- Disadvantage in the open labour market due to many clients having been unemployed for a long time



# Why a Social Firm 2 ?

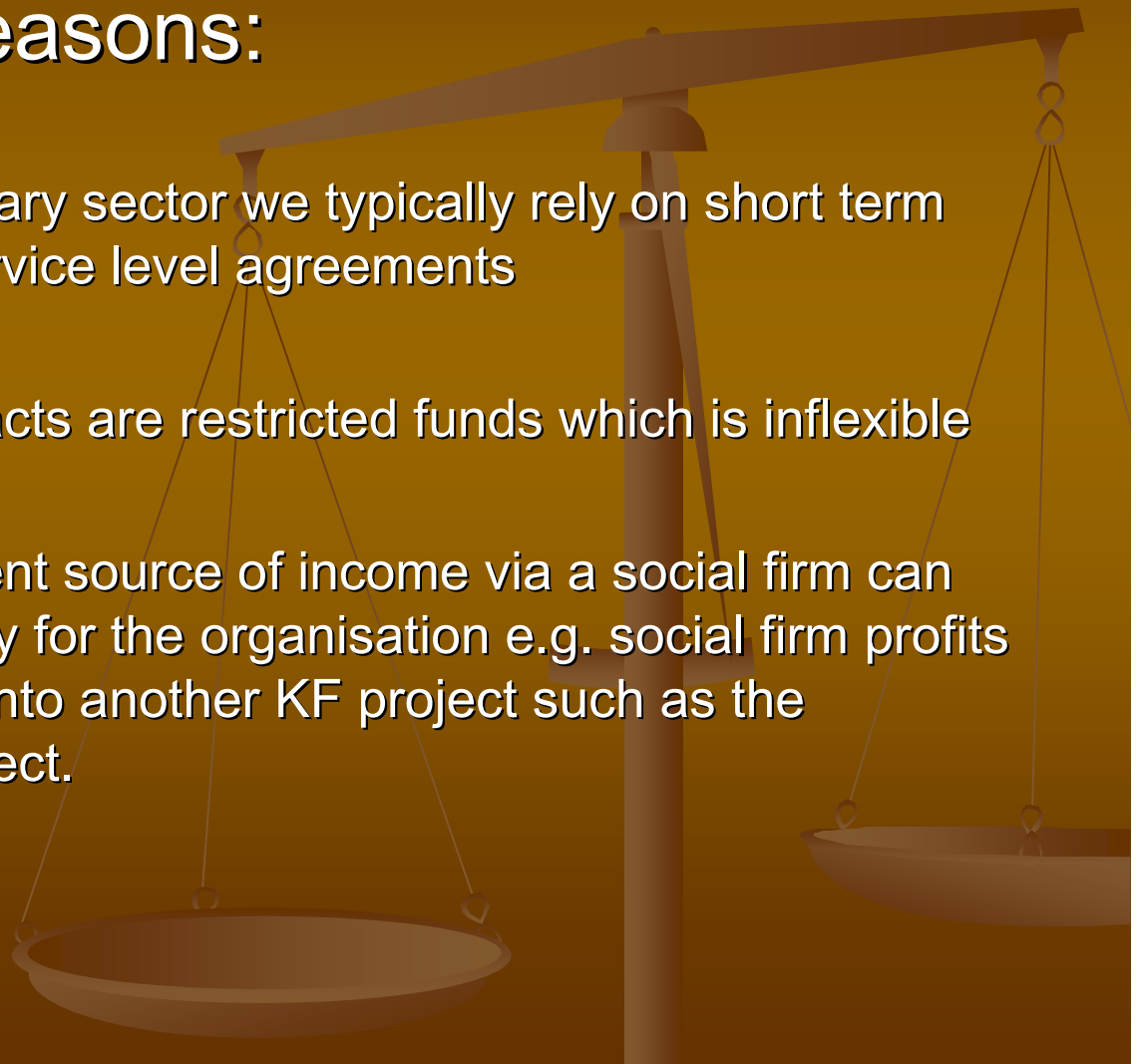
## Client benefits:

- A social firm can act as a stepping stone to open employment
  - Clients can have the opportunity to regain confidence and skills and develop an up-to date CV
  - Our clients already have valuable skills that they need to be given the opportunity to demonstrate
  - Clients can become employees rather than 'service users' which promotes social inclusion and reduces stigma
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# Why a Social Firm 3 ?

## Organisational Reasons:

- Traditionally in the voluntary sector we typically rely on short term funding contracts and service level agreements
- Short term funding contracts are restricted funds which is inflexible
- Generating an independent source of income via a social firm can achieve greater autonomy for the organisation e.g. social firm profits could be gift aided back into another KF project such as the employment support project.



# Our Next Steps

- Consultation with clients, staff and trustees
  - Analyse results and refine realistic business ideas
  - Undertake market research
  - Visit other Social Firms UK businesses to learn from their experiences
  - Start small in order to take measured risks
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