

Peer Networks

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Create a trusted
support network



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy



Who is the programme for?

Peer Networks is a national peer-to-peer networking programme for SME leaders that want to grow and develop their organisation for future success.

Delivered locally by Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP), we create diverse cohort groups of individuals to collaboratively work through common business issues. Through interactive action learning, we enable you to discuss your own challenges, gain and reflect on valuable feedback and implement practical solutions to overcome them.

From finance and HR to sales, marketing and more, our expert facilitators give you the flexibility to create a trusted support network that works for you, helping you to build and strengthen your business and improve its overall performance.

Businesses that seek external advice or undertake formal training are more likely to improve their overall performance, but many prefer to take advice from trusted sources when presented with external challenges and opportunities.

Peer Networks is tailor-made to meet that demand, providing a cohort of up to 11 SME owners for you to work with to build your businesses together.

The programme is open to any SME business that has:

Mandatory criteria

-  Operated for at least one year
-  At least five employees
-  A turnover of at least £100,000
-  An aspiration to improve

Desirable criteria

-  The potential to scale up
-  The ability or potential to export

What are the programme benefits?

Peer Networks enables you to build trusted connections that go beyond networking.

Your facilitated peer group enables you to consider your own challenges from different perspectives and act on new learnings from the sessions.

By completing Peer Networks, you will:

- Overcome business challenges and recognise and act on new opportunities
- Build a trusted network of connections to support you now and in the future
- Improve your long-term personal and business performance



Programme delivery



Peer Networks is delivered through a series of high impact group sessions, with each cohort led by a trained facilitator.

Upon completion of the programme, you will be able to use the action learning skills and techniques that you have learned to independently continue the group support.

The programme includes:

Interactive action learning

We overcome real-life problems by enquiring and reflecting before developing tangible actions and solutions.

Trained facilitators

Every session is supported by a trained facilitator to ensure consistency, efficiency and effectiveness.

Small cohorts

Groups of up to 11 participants to ensure that every member of the cohort can share their challenges, problems and opportunities.

Flexible topic selection

The topics of discussion are decided by the participants, enabling you to focus on your own challenges while taking learnings from other group members.

One to one support

In addition to the group session, you will have access to one to one support matched to your specific needs, building on your learning experience.

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