

Business Mentoring - make it your New Year's resolution!

As someone in business you're probably often asked for advice from those just setting up, so how about using the New Year as an excuse to make your mentoring skills official.

A new UK initiative has been put in place called **Get Mentoring** to help mentors develop their skills with a free and quick training course.

Once trained, mentors are listed with a mentoring organisation on www.mentorsme.co.uk, a national web portal that provides a single point of access to mentors across the UK.

So make it your new year's resolution to dedicate just one hour a month to mentoring a new or growing business and you can benefit from free training, delivered in a way which works best for you, as well as getting plugged into mentoring networks across the UK.

To get involved and find out about the free training visit www.getmentoring.org

Top ten reasons to mentor new and growing businesses in 2012

1. **To contribute to the success of the UK economy.** Research has shown that 70% of mentored small businesses survive for 5 years or more. That's double the number of non-mentored enterprises able to stand the test of time.
2. **To be a trusted source in a world of information.** Market failure analysis has shown that smaller businesses find it hard to obtain impartial advice, but that they are more likely to trust support from other experienced business people.
3. **To create employment opportunities.** The Small Business Survey 2010 revealed that micro, small and medium-sized business employers who had sought external advice or information over the previous 12 months were more likely to have grown their workforce in the past year (21%, compared to 14% of employers who had not sought advice) and expected to grow their employment in the next year (29%, compared to 17%).
4. **To contribute to the wealth of your business region.** The same survey showed that small enterprises were more likely to have increased their turnover in the past year (32%, compared to 24%) and were showing signs of increasing in the next year (47% as opposed to 36%).
5. **To improve your own business.** Mentoring helps to improve business confidence, leadership and management skills, resulting in improved business performance . . . for both mentor and mentee.
6. **To achieve a sense of personal fulfilment.** Business minister Mark Prisk, who spent some time as a mentor for The Prince's Trust says, "For me, it's mainly about the personal fulfilment from investing in others – seeing my mentee succeed and feeling valued as a role model", and this experience
7. **To support business in your region.** Supporting small and new businesses in your local community creates a more dynamic area, more jobs and therefore a more attractive place to do business.
8. **To develop your sector.** Supporting small and new businesses within your own supply chain creates a leaner and more efficient system. A stronger supply chain means a better service and better products for your business.

9. **To support your professional development.** By completing the course you will receive the SFEDI Certificate of Recognition and free membership of the Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (IoEE), in addition to the communication and relationship management skills you'll develop once mentoring.
10. **To get involved.** By mentoring as part of Get Mentoring you'll get plugged into mentoring activities across the UK which will put you in contact with mentees and other mentors. In addition, you will gain a wider understanding of the issues and challenges facing small businesses, which will enhance your own working life and outlook.

See <http://getmentoring.org> and "Get Involved" for more details.