



Enterprise Pathway Programme 2024-2025

Newry, Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership will engage the services of Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre to deliver an Enterprise Pathway Programme. This initiative will provide “wrap around” intensive mentoring support and the potential for a small financial contribution towards essential business expenses identified during the mentoring phase of the programme as being necessary to enable the business to further develop.

The programme is designed for entrepreneurs looking to develop their ideas and ambitions into fully operational businesses more quickly, effectively and sustainably. This support aims to help them transition from part-time to full-time ventures, creating opportunities to participate in other initiatives that support high-growth potential and innovative businesses.

This programme will support business creation, consolidation and expansion, from the initial start-up phase of the business through to growth. By offering early-stage developmental support, it will provide entrepreneurs with the pathway to fulfil their potential.

Objectives

- To support the unemployed, economically inactive and under employed to actively pursue and secure self-employment as a viable employment pathway.
- To provide one-to-one assistance to new businesses with rapid development potential.
- To move part-time entrepreneurs to full time self-employment.
- To enable entrepreneurs who have been benefit dependent to become full-time self-employed.
- To increase the survival rate of new-start businesses in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- To embed innovation in the early stage thinking of entrepreneurs as a means of product/process differentiation and creating greater market opportunities.
- To stimulate a more enterprising society through promotion of business ownership and the talent of local entrepreneurs.
- To encourage a shift in the perception of micro-enterprise owner-managers away from risk aversion towards increased confidence in their potential as competitive contributors to the economy.



- To support equality of opportunity at local, regional and cross border level, to enable micro enterprise owner-managers from all backgrounds to begin the process of transitioning from servicing local to external markets.
- All the support components within the programme will be customer-centred and as such underpinned by expertise consistent with the needs of the participating entrepreneurs.

Eligibility

- ✓ The business owner/manager will be unemployed, economically inactive or under employed (working PT, less than 16 hrs p/w)
- ✓ The business owner/manager will have completed the Go Succeed Business Programme.
- ✓ The business will be based in the Newry and Mourne Down District.
- ✓ The business must demonstrate the potential to develop profitably.
- ✓ Each business must demonstrate the potential to create an employment opportunity, moving at least one person (this can be the owner/manager) from part-time to full-time self-employment or from unemployment / economic inactivity to part/full-time self-employment.
- ✓ The owner/manager must be able to demonstrate that the business has more complex issues to overcome than the majority of start-up businesses.

The recruitment for this Programme will commence in Autumn 2024 and will be ongoing until Spring 2025.

For more information, please contact either:

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