



Guide To **Business Support** In Bolton

Start Up | Enterprise | Grow | Innovate

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Welcome

Business Support Guide

Business Bolton has created this guide to support residents and businesses to navigate the vast amount of support and services available locally and in Greater Manchester. There are opportunities for residents thinking about self-employment and setting up a business, business startups, growth and innovation. Whatever your business there is help available at every stage of your growth journey.



People

Over the next ten years we will support every resident to **benefit from good work and healthy lives**



Business

Over the next ten years we will maximise Bolton's potential to be a **leading economy in Greater Manchester**



Investment

In ten years we will have built **thriving communities** where people and businesses live and work

Bolton's Economic Growth and Resilience ambition creating better jobs in a more productive Bolton!

Bolton Business Support Hub



**Business
Services**



**Business
Start Up**



Business Growth



**Support
During
Uncertain
Times**

Are you a resident looking to start a new venture?
Are you a business wanting to access local support?

Every Wednesday 10-12pm
Business Zone, Bolton Central Library, BL1 1SE

Come along and find out the extensive FREE offers available in Bolton!

For more info email: businessbolton@bolton.gov.uk
Tel: 01204 336222

Build A Business
Business in GM Libraries



Business
Growth Hub



**Bolton
Council**

Business Bolton

Introduction

Business Bolton is the council's business engagement team; a one stop shop for supporting individuals and businesses to access support to achieve economic growth and resilience.

Business Bolton are on hand to keep you up to date with the local and regional business support offer, help you navigate council services, connect you with partners, provide local support, promote events and opportunities for the Bolton business community.

Eligibility: Bolton resident / Bolton based business

Offer

- Business information bulletin
- Business engagement & support
- Supported recruitment - help you find the right staff
- Property searches
- Signposting to finance & funding advice
- Navigation of apprenticeships & training provision
- Access to training and development to support to upskill your workforce
- Support to improve workplace health & wellbeing
- Bolton & GM networking and events
- Sponsorship & advertising opportunities
- Social value connectivity with The Bolton Family



www.businessbolton.org



01204 336222



businessbolton@bolton.gov.uk

Build A Business in GM Libraries



Introduction

Build A Business is an innovative project aimed at small businesses, entrepreneurs and anyone thinking of starting their own business. It is running in libraries across all ten Greater Manchester authorities, offering tailored help to support new businesses.

Each borough has a dedicated local enterprise officer who can support you with the help that you need. Open to anyone thinking of starting up or within their first year of trading.

Offer

- Friendly, confidential, one-to-one help by appointment
- Workshops on planning, marketing and more
- Market research tools
- Intellectual property protection
- Coworking space
- Talks from business experts
- Accounts, legal & tax clinics
- Networking opportunities
- News from the business start-up world
- Links to the wider support community
- Access to 3D printing

Eligibility: Bolton resident



www.buildabusinessgm.org



07793201577 / 01204 332182



rob.moran-hetherington@bolton.gov.uk

Case Study



ONE FIVE ONE

www.theonefiveone.com

One Five One recently established a retail store, based in Bolton town centre specialising in trading cards and retro gaming with start up support from Build A Business.

The store has become a hub for both adults and children, fostering connections between parents and kids. The store's popularity has grown through word of mouth, attracting visitors not only from Bolton but also from other areas.

The development and launch of their online store has enabled them to showcase their products globally and now they are now considering expansion.

Build A Business played a pivotal role in their journey, offering workshops that aided in creating a platform for new businesses and crafting a comprehensive business plan.

SME Champion Rob Moran-Heatherington provided personalised guidance and shared his extensive knowledge to help them make informed decisions.

" Rob, from Build a Business Bolton, has been a major part of the One Five One coming to life, with his wealth of knowledge and checking on the progress being made.

He came in one day and we got a telling off for not having some stuff priced, but the gent he is he helped out to get it done. Rob is always looking out for the best interests of the people that use this service. He gave us great information that have saved us a lot of money"

One Five One

GM Business Growth Hub

Introduction

GM Business Growth Hub is a community of specialists with a passion for helping businesses across Greater Manchester to realise their full potential. And the best part, it's all fully funded and free to access.

Whatever your business is, we can help. We work with you at every stage of your growth journey. If you have a need, we have the right support to equip you with the tools, insights, and connections to succeed.

No matter if you are just thinking of starting your own business, or you are working for a large enterprise, GM Business Growth Hub is here for you.



Have a need that's not on the list or not sure how GM Business Growth Hub can support you. Get in touch and our advisors will be happy to help.

Eligibility: 16+, living or trading in Greater Manchester

Offer

- Starting your own business
- Accessing & understanding business finance
- Developing yourself as a leader
- Upskilling your workforce
- Improving your social Impact
- Innovating the way you do business
- Improving your manufacturing processes
- Import & export

GM Business Growth Hub is part-funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The £7.5m funding has been made possible thanks to Greater Manchester Combined Authority securing funding to deliver UKSPF projects, which forms part of the Government's wider Levelling Up agenda.

-
-  www.businessgrowthhub.com
 -  0161 3593050
 -  BGH@growthco.uk



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Case Study



A YEAR OF DATES

www.ayearofdates.com

A Year of Dates was founded by Kate and John Greenhalgh in 2016 following a thoughtful gift from husband to wife. From this idea their ecommerce gifting business has grown from the kitchen table to an international business with a team of seven people. The business now operates from headquarters on the edge of Bolton town centre and have just celebrated their 7th anniversary.

A Year of Dates have won multiple awards and achieved recognition from esteemed personalities in the business; with the endorsement of Theo Paphitis, a prominent figure in the industry. This showcased their ability to capture attention and gain support from key influencers.

Their business results are a testament to their success in achieving high performance through digital means.

GM Business Growth Hub's Bolton Business Advisor Jonathan Crabtree assisted the business in their growth journey through the provision of fully funded support focusing on the businesses strategy, innovation priorities, scale up ambitions and workforce skills development.

“The businesses success is a testament to the team's dedication and hard work. Over the past six years, the company has grown significantly. The business has never lost sight of its customers' needs. Through constant digital innovation and a customer-centric approach, the business has consistently delivered an outstanding online customer journey.

Working with the GM Business Growth Hub has been an important and valuable aspect of our growth. The advice, guidance and access to support has proved both timely, relevant and beneficial. Its great to have access to this resource”

A Year Of Dates

EnterprisingYou

Introduction

Are you considering turning your passion into a business, or have you already taken that step? Are you self-employed or running your own business and keen to accelerate your growth?

EnterprisingYou is tailored to help those with a budding business idea or established self-employed individuals, freelancers and gig economy workers in Greater Manchester.

Our programme will help you make a smooth transition into self-employment, start-up your new venture, elevate your profile or discover your business growth potential.

Learn ways to kickstart or improve your business and reach your goals quicker and more efficiently. With workshops and free advice on a variety of topics, from personal skills to marketing and business/personal finance – we've got you covered.

Give our advisors a call to discuss your needs.

Eligibility: 16+, living or trading in Greater Manchester

Offer

- Analysis of business idea & viability
- How self-employment may impact on personal circumstances
- Legalities of becoming self-employed/starting a business
- Business & cash flow planning
- Advice on where to access finance
- Marketing
- Health & Wellbeing
- Face-to-face & online support
- Networking events
- Access to wider GM Business Growth Hub services

EnterprisingYou is delivered by GM Business Growth Hub, which is part-funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The £7.5m funding has been made possible thanks to Greater Manchester Combined Authority securing funding to deliver UKSPF projects, which forms part of the Government's wider Levelling Up agenda.



www.businessgrowthhub.com



0161 3593050



BGH@growthco.uk

Delivered by

GM Business
Growth Hub



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MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

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**LEVELLING
UP**

Case Study



Hands On Fitness

Hands on Fitness was founded in Bolton by Samantha Williamson, a former National Manager in the UK retail sector who embarked on an exciting journey three years ago. She decided to follow her passion for fitness and founded Hands on Fitness as a Personal Trainer. Samantha got introduced to EnterprisingYou, a strand of the Business Growth Hub through a chat at her local gym.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Samantha had to pivot her fitness sessions to Zoom. Surprisingly, her clients embraced this change, and her earnings tripled after three months.

Samantha values the support of her local community, which she considers crucial to her business's success. Her honest and comprehensive approach to personal training has earned her a stellar reputation. She doesn't just see herself as a Personal Trainer; she takes on the roles of a physician, counselor, dietitian, motivator and friend. She's received multiple nominations for awards, a testament to her dedication. Future plans for Hands on Fitness include opening her fitness studio and even considering franchising, with no desire to return to mainstream employment.

EnterprisingYou provided Samantha with valuable support, including a dedicated Business Coach and a Finance Specialist. She is also planning on accessing social media training to further boost her business. At first, she had her doubts, but she soon found that the programme was a game-changer for her business.

“I recommend EnterprisingYou, hands down YES! Just speaking to someone who validates you, your ambitions and understands your journey has been incredible and nothing is forced or patronising, it's very bespoke to me and my business and I can't recommend EnterprisingYou highly enough”

Hands on Fitness

Introduction

The University of Bolton Group provides access to a network of academic experts and sector specialists which can help support your business.


We have years of experience of collaborating with businesses, public sector organisations and charities, applying our knowledge to deliver real support and impact.


The aim is to provide challenging career and employment enhancing opportunities.

Eligibility: Bolton Business

Offer

- Accounting & legal clinics for SME, start-ups & not for profit organisations
- Knowledge exchange & innovation support
- Research development
- Testing & research partnerships consultancy
- Centre for Advanced Manufacturing
- Access to talent, recruitment advice and support
- Apprenticeship pathways
- Develop your workforce
- Business educational enterprise

 www.bolton.ac.uk/more/business-gateway

 businessenquiries@bolton.ac.uk

Proper Good

No nonsense support to start
or grow your social business

Introduction

The Proper Good Programme offers free support for social businesses, trading charities, social entrepreneurs and social enterprises that aim to make a positive difference to the community.

The programme helps to grow social enterprises, encourages social entrepreneurs to develop ideas, and aims to help increase the visibility of the social business sector.

Additionally, individuals and organisations can apply for social investment to grow their idea.

The programme is hosted by Greater Manchester Community and Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) and delivered by local partners in Bolton, Oldham, Wigan and Stockport.

Eligibility: Any individual or social business, i.e. a business or trading charity, that seeks to do social good

Offer

- Workshops & skills sharing; around themes such as legal structures, social accounting & marketing
- 1-2-1 advice sessions
- Social Enterprise networking opportunities
- Business mentoring programme
- Digital newsletter
- Seed funding
- Sign-posting to further support, contacts, funding & investment opportunities



www.boltoncvs.org.uk/services/volunteering/proper-good/



propergood@boltoncvs.org.uk



Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce

Introduction

The Chamber has a strong presence in the commerce, community and culture of Greater Manchester's ten local authority areas.

The Chamber is an independent, not-for-profit, private company and its aim is to support businesses and help create the best climate for the region to prosper.

Members can get advice and support on key business issues including HR, health, legal matters and export documentation. Key sectors such as Manufacturing & Engineering and Property & Construction are represented by their own dedicated groups.

Each local area also has its own Local Business Group and Local President to ensure their views are heard.

Eligibility: GM Based / Membership fee applies

Offer

- Raise business profile
- Make new connections through networking events
- Business support
- Cost management
- International trade support
- Chamber Space - hire for networking & events



<https://www.gmchamber.co.uk/>



01204 903635



Introduction


Get the support you need to grow your business. Whether you're launching a new venture, self-employed, or managing a growing team, we're here to guide you every step of the way.


Gain more time to focus on running your business with help, advice, and insights from industry experts who specialise in employment law, finance, marketing, and much more. There will be moments when you require the assistance of specialists, and that's when we come in. The FSB is a not-for-profit organization that offers its 150,000 members an affordable way to access the support they need, whenever they need it. Our services include advice, protection, and guidance to ensure your business thrives.


Eligibility: Business / Membership Fee applies

Offer

- Legal matters – debt/late payments, disputes etc
- HR & Employment (contracts, advice & guidance)
- Free business banking
- Low-cost insurance
- Health & Safety
- Funding
- Tax investigation protection
- Staff training schemes
- Health & Wellbeing

 www.fsb.org.uk

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Get in touch

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