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Business Link Pledges Support 'Without Exception' to Start-Ups



A new programme of support for the region's start-up businesses has been announced by Business Link Yorkshire.

The service offers every new and emerging business in Yorkshire and Humber access to the same high quality, impartial support wherever they are in the region.

"This new service will be able to respond to the needs of every kind of start-up business," said Jules O'Dor, director of enterprise services for Business Link Yorkshire.

"In the past, business support has been delivered through a number of different organisations, so the level of support has varied depending on the customer's location. With the new service, every type of business, without exception, can choose to access our services online, over the phone or face to face through an extensive programme of workshops.

"The advice we give is completely impartial and our advisers will help to assess the potential for success of every customer's start-up idea. They will advise where their ideas and business plans may need rethinking or more research, or if the business is ready for a tailored support package to help the client maximise their potential."

Jules continued: "We will then help the customer to find the support they need from a wide range of pre-approved private sector suppliers such as accountants, lawyers and marketing professionals, who are registered on a region-wide supplier database. The customer will always decide who they receive this support from and, in some circumstances, some funding will be available towards it."

Jules added: "This new service means all new or pre-start businesses will initially receive the same wide-ranging programme of support - irrespective of their level of aspiration, their growth potential or their location - which will then be tailored to their specific needs. At the same time it ensures the most effective and efficient use of resources, as well as greater control over the quality of the service provided."

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Photography

Jules_Marcia_Siobhan1.jpeg – Jules O’Dor, Business Link Yorkshire’s director of enterprise services, chats at the Leeds Enterprise Show with mother and daughter entrepreneurs Marcia Pusey (left) and Siobhan Thomas. Marcia intends to start her own aromatherapy, massage and hypnotherapy practice, while Siobhan is a fashion student at Huddersfield University who hopes to start her own fashion design business.

Notes to editors

Business Link Yorkshire

Business Link Yorkshire brings together the four local Business Link services in Yorkshire and Humber into a region-wide service. It will simplify the way in which people thinking about starting a business, as well as businesses looking to grow, can access high quality business advice and supports the delivery of Yorkshire Forward’s regional economic strategy. Individuals considering starting a business, or owners interested in growing their businesses, can access the service from on 08456 048 048 or www.businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk

Businesses wishing to become an approved supplier to Business Link Yorkshire can register at www.yhsuppliers.co.uk

Exemplas Holdings Ltd and Reed in Partnership are the joint parents of Y&H IDB Ltd, who won the £29m contract to create and deliver the new Business Link service in Yorkshire and Humber in June 2007.

Capitol Park in Barnsley was named in January as the location for Business Link Yorkshire’s Regional Co-ordination Centre.

The Enterprise Shows

The Enterprise Show events are run in partnership with Business Link Yorkshire and Yorkshire Forward and are an opportunity for entrepreneurs to get free professional advice on both starting and developing a business.

For more information and dates of forthcoming events, call 0800 032 26 26 or go to www.theenterpriseshow.com