

## Peer Networks scheme

The government-funded Peer Networks scheme offers support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the UK. The programme, which has been created by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, is held at local growth hubs across the UK. It is available to any SMEs that have been in business for at least 12 months, employ five or more staff members and make £100,000 or more in revenue.

After the last 18 months or so of business disruption due to the pandemic and Brexit, now could be the ideal time to benefit from the scheme. It is free to join and only takes a few hours of time each month. It helps organisations tackle common business challenges through interactive action learning. Additionally, the scheme's trained mentors help businesses handle new opportunities and build a strong support network. Business leaders can learn from like-minded individuals on the scheme and put practical solutions into place together to overcome common issues.

Virtual workshops on the Peer Network scheme normally take place in small group sessions and can be joined either in the comfort of your own home or office. One to one mentoring, advice and coaching is also available, and trained facilitators are on hand to help organisations develop and grow.

Head of Operations at Mastercall Healthcare said: "The one-to-one tutor session really helped me work on some long-standing obstacles. I'm so glad to have taken part and feel more confident in my own skills and attributes."

Businesses will not be placed in a group with any of their competitors, so they are free to use the scheme as a platform to share business ideas and collaborate with fellow company owners who experience similar concerns and challenges.



Jason Thorpe, Managing Director at The Voiceover Gallery said: "By sharing experiences and issues, it enables you to step back from business, and look at things from a different perspective whilst benefitting from the experience of others that may have faced similar challenges."

Visit [www.peernetworks.co.uk](http://www.peernetworks.co.uk) for more information and to apply. The enquiry form takes less than three minutes to complete, and your local Growth Hub will contact you to explain the next steps.

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