

The Leader Programme

Grow your company



About the Programme



What is the Leader Programme?

The Invest NI Leader Programme is specifically designed to enable SME leaders to grow their business.

The programme offers you as a leader an opportunity to assess your business's performance. It combines one to one and peer learning in addition to the latest leadership thinking from experts and guest speakers.

You will benefit from the advice of an experienced business mentor to assist you in the development of a growth action plan. Working with an executive coach you will gain an insight into your personal leadership style. The programme is challenging but it will enhance your leadership performance to achieve the growth options identified.

Who is the programme for?

The programme is aimed at the overall leader of an SME, the Managing Director, Chief Executive or Owner-Manager who can demonstrate:

- ✓ A clear strategic need and willingness to change
- ✓ Commitment and time available
- ✓ Turnover ideally greater than £1 million
- ✓ A history of profitable trading
- ✓ An existing robust business model

The programme is open to companies that are currently customers of Invest NI.

Why should you apply?

- Do you spend too much time on operational activities when you should be focusing on setting the direction for your business?
- Do you need to build a more professional company structure in order to grow internationally?
- Are you the founder or driving force of the firm?
- Do you need to redefine your leadership role in order to grow the company?
- Has your company grown rapidly but you have not had time to focus on setting up the processes to achieve growth?
- Do you at times feel isolated in your role as the leader of the business?

Programme elements

Each of the programme elements will support and challenge participating SMEs in a variety of ways:



Business Mentoring

A pool of experienced entrepreneurs and business owners will work with you to develop a Growth Action Plan. The business mentors will provide a challenge function and work with you to develop a strategic focus for your business. There will be up to five days of mentoring time available.

Leadership Coaching

A panel of accredited executive coaches will help you to develop an understanding of your leadership style. The coaches will work with you in strengthening your leadership attributes to deliver on the growth ambitions for your company. There will be up to three days of coaching time available.

Shared Learning through Peer Networks

Facilitated networks of other SME leaders will provide exposure to best practice examples and shared experiences on leadership and business issues. This learning contributes to both your individual and company growth activities. There will be five group sessions during the programme.

“Through the course, I have a better understanding of myself and a clearer vision for my business.”

STEVEN ALLAWAY, Aqualla Brassware Limited

Get in touch



The Leader Programme 2020

Before the programme commences (Date tbc) we will hold an information event which will outline the programme elements and provide an opportunity to hear from previous participants.



If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Catherine McGuigan
T: 028 9069 8312 or catherine.mcguigan@investni.com

“ Being a tech entrepreneur and in the game 15 years, I almost thought I knew enough about leadership and its challenges, however this programme made me realise I was only scratching the surface. My company now has a stronger culture, better performing team, engaged management, increased productivity and more bottom line as a direct result of this programme. What is even more remarkable, is that all this has been achieved with vastly reduced stress levels and less pressures on both myself and the senior leadership team within the business.”

PAUL CREIGHTON, Advanced Electronic Solutions Global Ltd (UK)

“ When I started my journey on the Leadership Programme I was apprehensive about how it would benefit me personally. Having now completed the programme, I cannot emphasise or recommend enough the experience. From coaching and mentoring to key leadership skills, to focus on personal growth & development, I am assured that with new found confidence and enriched skills, I can take my business to the next level, and introduce an ambitious growth plan that will secure the future of our business. This coupled with the opportunity to build relationships with other business leaders has been extremely beneficial. I cannot recommend the programme enough.”

IAN McNIECE, Countryside Services Limited

If you require this leaflet in an alternative format (including Braille, audio disk, large print or minority languages to meet the needs of those whose first language is not English) then please contact:

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