

# Mentoring for Growth with the Rapid Response programme

Be the Business are an independent, not-forprofit movement. Our mission is to help every firm in the UK **improve their own performance, and the performance of those they work with**. As businesses in England strive to adapt, rebuild and grow, find out how our 12 week **Rapid Response Mentoring programme** can play an integral part in supporting leaders of SMEs.

Experienced business mentors from leading firms can provide a much needed sounding board for difficult decisions and they can also help business owners to develop the most suitable strategy moving forward – focussing on key issues that effect productivity, resilience and sustainability.

Mentees are involved for around 12 weeks at a time with a mentor – matched with their needs – in order to address specific issues and challenges.

## About the Rapid Response Mentoring Programme

The programme is intended to be a short, sharp injection of support and will entail:

- 12 week support intervention to deal with acute business challenges
- Tailored, one-to-one support from a senior exec in a leading firm
- Your own mentor matched with your specific needs and objectives as selected by you
- Suggested weekly calls or online meetings of 1-2 hours
- Links on invaluable help and current topics are available on the BtB Coronavirus Support and Rebuild hubs
- Modules on how to make the most of the mentoring experience
- Useful tools and advice for decision making and communication

## **Programme structure and commitment**

Mentoring relationships on the RRM are planned to last for around 12 weeks, the intention being to deal with specific troubleshooting or recovery issues for SMEs. All the contact should be via phone or virtual meeting tools.

It will be over to the mentor and mentee to manage the relationship with support from tools online.

We anticipate that contact will be at least once a week for around an hour – but it's up to both parties to work out what the need is and what works best.

Links are also available to the **BtB Rebuild and Support hubs** for up to date guidance and information, sharing experiences of other SMEs and links to join webinars and events.

Once registered on the

BtB Connectr platform, mentees
need to complete their profile and
complete the induction module.
It is then up to the mentee to make
the first contact after reviewing
the shortlisted selection of
matching mentors.

Should there be any reservations at any stage over **compatibility**, either party can email the team and be **re-matched** if necessary. There are invaluable resources available on the platform to support development and aide the success of the mentoring relationship.

#### Getting SMEs the help they need

We are working with experienced mentors from our partners at John Lewis, Siemens, McKinsey, GSK, Amazon and BAE Systems to name a few, as well as some smaller established firms. **The programme is offered completely free**, with mentors providing their one-to-one support on a pro-bono basis.

# Mentors can help SME business leaders in unique and invaluable ways, providing;

- A fresh perspective on your challenges and opportunities
- A neutral sounding board to talk through your own ideas
- Greater confidence in tough decisions you need to make
- A safe space to share your own worries and concerns
- Direction towards solutions, not telling you what to do

#### Topics covered can include:

- resilience
- business liquidity
- · risk and change management
- financial and employment matters
- crisis and motivational communications
- strategy and planning
- marketing advice and customer communication
- project management

#### Get involved!

Mentoring for Growth is open to all SME businesses in England and has been shown to be most effective in businesses with at least 5 staff and a turnover of £500k.

You can register for the programme here, To find out more, <u>visit our page</u> or you can email us at <u>mentoring@bethebusiness.com</u>,

