



PIPEline: Ensuring a supply of new businesses to the Hampshire region.

Introduction

PIPEline (Portsmouth Integrated Programme for Enterprise) is a new intensive short programme of support for ideas-stage entrepreneurs in the Hampshire region. Targeted at the entrepreneurial unemployed (this includes recent graduates and those made redundant through the financial crisis) PIPEline will help to ensure a supply of new growth-businesses to support the region's economic strategy and provide a self-employed route out of unemployment for those participating.

The programme will be a collaboration between the University of Portsmouth and Business Link and will aim to bring together ideas-stage entrepreneurs from many different ages and backgrounds: new graduates, creative entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs, science and technology start-ups, to create a rich interdisciplinary mix in which the peer learning and networking opportunity is as important as the taught component.

The programme will be structured around two intensive residential weekends, the first looking at the individual, their skills and their own creativity. This will be run by the University of Portsmouth. By the end of the weekend participants will be able to reflect both on their own skills and on the ideas that they have developed. The second weekend, run by Business Link will enable the participants to take their chosen idea and apply the rigour of business process and financial understanding. A final one-day event will be held in which participants can pitch their ideas to representatives from the local business support network with the aim of gaining access to start-up finance, incubation and mentoring.

Aims

- To encourage and stimulate entrepreneurship as a response to the global financial crisis
- To help ensure a supply of new high growth businesses for the Hampshire region
- To link ideas stage entrepreneurs into the business support system
- To create a unique community of practise to increase the success rate of start-up entrepreneurs

Pilot

The aim will be to run a pilot programme in the autumn of 2009 drawing on an existing pool of entrepreneurial recent graduates and the recently unemployed in the region already identified by Job Centre Plus and who have attended business start-up workshops at the university. An initial cohort of 15 participants would be selected.

