
Introduction to IWORK4ME services

IWORK4ME provides a unique service to autistic adults who wish to consider turning a skill, hobby or interest into a business micro-enterprise.

If you think that may be of interest to you, we invite you to contact us to arrange an initial meeting. Currently, because of COVID19 restrictions, meetings take place online via the ZOOM app which is extremely easy to install and operate.

What can I expect from my first meeting with IWORK4ME?

The first meeting will last around 45 minutes. You are most welcome to bring/have someone alongside you for support.

You will meet two people, Sue Hope and Bryce Potter both of whom are longstanding Business Mentors and both of whom are self-employed. You will find them friendly and encouraging in their approach. They will ask you to explain what your business idea is. Don't worry if you have not worked out all the fine details, there will be plenty of time and opportunity to do that in the future.

In advance of the initial meeting, **IWORK4ME** asks you to consider a number of basic question and bring to the meeting your responses (it helps to write these down.) View our frequently asked questions > <http://www.iwork4me.org.uk/frequently-asked-questions/>

After the first meeting, if the team sees your business idea as viable or workable, you will be invited to a second meeting. This gives you time to go away and think about whether or not the **IWORK4ME** service will help you. The team asks you to respond to the invitation email and confirm or decline the offer.

If I accept what happens next?

The **IWORK4ME** team will arrange to meet (in person/online) with you with a view to moving forward your idea and helping you to identify and prioritise tasks. Do not worry about this. The team is well versed in helping people take small, manageable steps towards their goal of setting up a small business or micro-enterprise.

Meetings will take place around every six weeks, usually on a Wednesday, and they will last around 50 minutes. You will be sent notes from the meeting by email. Included in those notes will be a small number of agreed 'action points'. These will be tasks you need to complete in advance of the next meeting to help you move forward your plans. These tasks will be manageable and not too onerous.

At the next meeting we will discuss with you what the outcome was of your action points. For example, we might ask you to do some research. Together, we would look at what that research had yielded. Your Business Mentor would then agree with you what the next steps would be.

You will be encouraged to celebrate the progress you have made. If progress proves elusive, don't worry, we will look together at how we might help the process along.

How many sessions does IWOR4ME offer?

The number of sessions is not limited. We offer support up to business launch and beyond. We understand how stressful the process can prove. Sometimes, people choose to take a break in their progress towards business launch. They are guaranteed that we will be happy to resume support as and when it is needed.

What does IWOR4ME expect from me?

We ask that you attend meetings that are fixed and that you come to the meetings having completed the action points from the previous meeting if at all possible. The **IWOR4ME** team treats everyone as an individual and understands that, sometimes, things can get in the way of making progress. They will work with you in a supportive way to identify and overcome obstacles to your progress.

What happens if I have more than one idea for a business?

The team is highly skilled at helping clients decide which business idea is best for them. Rarely does it make sense to run two business concurrently. However, we might make suggestions of services or products that might complement those you originally thought of, that way helping you diversify and gradually expand your business at a rate you find comfortable.

I am worried about issues like tax and state benefits, how can IWOR4ME help

The **IWOR4ME** team can signpost you to other agencies that can offer specific advice, if required.

INITIAL Questions link: <http://www.iwork4me.org.uk/frequently-asked-questions/>

Things to think about in advance of your first meeting with IWOR4ME

It can be a bit daunting if you're wondering how to start a business. There are a lot of decisions to be made. **IWOR4ME** will help you make these decisions and will provide you with helpful guidance and suggestions. We will assist you to focus on things in the right order and at a rate you find comfortable.

To help us make a start together, before our first meeting please consider and write down your responses to the following questions

- Do you have a clear business idea? Yes/No
- Summarise it in writing
- Do you have more than one idea and need help exploring these options YES/NO
- Do you want to bring someone with you to the first meeting to help you e.g. partner, parent carer? YES/NO
- If so, how can you contact them and ask them to help?
- Have you done any market research?
- Who would be your competitor? Write down their name and web address.

For more information, please contact Sue Hope sue@iwork4me.org.uk 07702 812987