

# The Growth Voucher Programme

Sage is supporting The Growth Voucher Programme which helps business grow through the use of subsidised business advice. Getting the right advice is key to making confident business decisions; that's why we're proud supporters of the new £30m Growth Vouchers Programme.

## What are Growth Vouchers?

If you run a small business then you'll know how important advice can be, whether it's from your accountant or your IT support. Well, the Growth Vouchers Programme will support more than 20,000 small businesses to find advisers to help them grow their business. The programme will offer advice and guidance to the businesses taking part and will see subsidies of up to £2,000 being offered to many via a newly-created marketplace. Whether it's business growth, moving into new markets or hiring more staff, there is a wealth of expertise available to small businesses through the marketplace.

## Where do you look for business advice?

We work with 14,000 accountants and they are perfectly placed to advise owners on decisions relating to business performance and expansion. If you've only seen your accountant as a number cruncher before then I'd recommend you think again.

But, who do you go to when you need a little advice?



## What do business owners think?

"As one of my clients said to me recently 'you don't know what you don't know' and I think many small business owners are either very worried that there is something that they don't know that others do or are not concerned enough about really thinking about what support they need to grow their business.

Business owners really don't know where to get advice, they are overwhelmed when they search on the internet or bombarded with emails when they sign up with organisations for information.

Running your own business starts with you and I think at the core, business owners need leadership and management training.

This will ensure that they are thinking like a leader, setting ambitious goals for growth and managing their business successfully."

"I think there's something to be said about the enormous growth of women's business networks in the UK – right or wrong, there is definitely a degree of ease in getting business advice from 'people like me' which sees women seeking advice from other women, mums in business getting together with other mumpreneurs and so on."

"I personally have three business mentors as I find the best source of advice comes from those in the business. I also enjoy reading other start-up blogs and find lots of valuable advice online. I'm a member of many start-up support sites and find forums and articles very informative"

## Registering as an approved supplier

Sage is one of the key sponsors of the project, and we are offering all advisers to small businesses including accountants the opportunity to become an approved supplier on the **marketplace**. This marketplace is a list of approved suppliers that small businesses will be directed to, so they can locate specialist guidance in various different areas throughout England.

To find out more about registering your practice on the marketplace, [click here](#).

If you're not a member of a trade or professional body or do not meet the minimum standards, you can still be an adviser – just not one with whom a small business can spend their Voucher. There will be lots of businesses visiting the Marketplace to look for advisers so it's still worth being profiled on the marketplace and it's free to register.