



Vision for Kent: A thriving community of young entrepreneurs and business owners, growing the Kent economy with experienced and successful business mentors, and peer support.

What is the Kent Foundation?

The Kent Foundation is a unique charity that provides free business support and mentoring to Kent's young entrepreneurs and business owners. We recruit and train leaders from the Kent business community to become volunteer mentors who support the next generation of business owners in Kent.

The Kent Foundation is an essential part of the business community, supporting innovative young people to grow new enterprises, create employment opportunities, and contribute to the economic well-being of the County.

Start-ups are essential to growing a successful economy and 2022 marks our 37th anniversary-everything we have achieved over the last 37 years has inspired, created, and successfully grown hundreds of new enterprises in Kent.



What is our mission and how can you help us?

01 Our mission is to nurture the ideas and innovation of young business owners, supporting them to make the right decisions to establish successful and sustainable businesses.

02 By creating a thriving and supportive network for young business owners and through the expertise of our volunteer business mentors, we are able to increase their likelihood of success.

03 Research shows that mentored startups grow 3.5x faster. The success of entrepreneurs, who are constantly pulled in many directions, can be amplified with the support of the right mentor who, above all, helps the founder focus and invest time wisely*.

04 Our objective is to be supporting 250 start-up businesses by March 2024. To enable our volunteers to deliver this essential service we invest £1000 per year for each business our mentors support. This is incredible value, ultimately giving a significant return to the Kent economy.

05 We need the support of the Kent business community to help fund this growth and to increase the success of the next generation of entrepreneurs. Together we will contribute to the growth and vibrancy of the Kent economy.



How do we support young business owners & entrepreneurs?

We provide the infrastructure to enable local communities to improve the success of young businesses and ultimately create new employment within their local communities. This creates a virtuous circle of success and support.

Every young business entrepreneur and business owner who works with the Kent Foundation is assigned a trained mentor, who supports them on a regular basis both face-to-face and remotely.

In addition to mentoring, we provide opportunities for businesses to connect, collaborate and support each other through the challenges they face. Innovation is driven through Mastermind and Masterclass sessions where young businesses can learn from peers, sector experts and specialists to help develop ideas and their working practices. Plus networking events, where business owners are connected through a mutual interest in business to recognise the contribution they make to the wider business community in Kent, collaborate, and celebrate their successes.





What do our members say?

Sarah Tompkins

Palm Bay Skates (clothing & fashion)

“ We began working with our Kent Foundation mentor last year and we cannot thank him enough for the amount of support and guidance he has given to us as a start-up business. He has been so important in shaping our new business and helping us find the confidence and focus that is so important in the early stages. He really goes out of his way to fit us into his busy schedule and our business really has come into its own since we have met him - which we are pretty sure is no coincidence! ”

Katie Hawkins

**Pretty Please by Katie
(wedding hair & make up specialist)**

“ The Kent Foundation has been an instrumental source of support, guidance and sanity in what has been a really challenging time both emotionally and for my business. The regular online masterminds have given me the opportunity to troubleshoot areas of concern as well as meet with other businesses across Kent and feel a sense of comradery between us. I've been amazed by the wonderful community the Kent Foundation have brought together. I find myself regularly meeting with or talking to other Kent Foundation businesses about my ideas, their work, joining their podcasts or interacting on their Facebook groups. Huzzah The Kent Foundation! ”

What do our mentors say?

Amy Watmore

“ I am passionate about supporting the younger generation succeed in their goals and giving support and advice whether that be business or motivationally directed. I believe you only need someone to believe in your vision and advise when needed to make it a reality and a success. We all need encouragement and support and this is at times not easy to come by. It is especially daunting for sole traders and small businesses to carry everything on their own and hinder the objectives. ”

Gary Swift

“ I have had a very successful business career over 25 years which has covered several different start up companies in different industries and different countries. I would like to pass on my experiences to a younger generation. Young business people need all the help they can get and I would like to be part of this process. ”



The Kent Foundation in numbers

In the last 12 months we have...

1000

Facilitated more than 1000 meetings between mentors and mentees.

100

Over 100 people attended our annual summit to connect with other business owners, attend workshops and celebrate business successes.

124

Supported 124 young entrepreneurs and businesses in Kent.

82

Paired our 82 active and trained mentors with young entrepreneurs, and trained 11 new mentors.

16

Hosted 16 events including workshops, masterclasses and networking events with over 200 attendees.



What do we need from you to keep supporting young people in Kent?

It costs £1000 to help each entrepreneur every year. This includes providing a trained mentor and all of the services and support mentioned above.

We need your donations:

Kent Foundation Partner:

Sponsor one of our services for a year - costing from £5,000 to £20,000.

Entrepreneur Sponsor:

Sponsor one or more young entrepreneurs in Kent each year at £1000 per entrepreneur to provide a trained mentor and all of the services and support mentioned above.

Kent Foundation Champion:

Make a regular monthly donation of £10, £20 or £50.

Kent Foundation Supporter:

Make a one off support payment of £50, £100 or £200.





INSPIRE INFORM EDUCATE

With your help we continue to make Kent a great place for young people in business. **Let's make business a great cause!**