

Appendix B: Feedback for LEAP

Apprenticeships:



"I would like to say thank you for making the process of employing Ellis as an apprentice so straight forward".

James Grant, Managing Director



"We have had a fantastic success...We were delighted with the response and also the calibre of some of the applicants was fantastic...Thank you for your help and support."

Nicola Nicholas, Head of Human Resources



"Thank you...SHS has taken on 4 apprentices – all with huge success across a range of departments."

Lynton Golds, Principal



"Thank you so much for your patience and help. You have certainly speeded things up quite considerably."

Jo Fifer, Manager

Make 2014 Your **LEAP** Year!

LEAP is helping local young people to kickstart their careers as well as enabling local employers to recruit motivated staff that can help grow their businesses.

We have spoken to Cash Bases Ltd, to find out how LEAP was able to support the business in recruiting apprentices.

Cash Bases Ltd, in Newhaven, is a successful manufacturing company which has grown significantly in the last few years leading to the decision to employ six apprentices during 2014 (pictured below). Their HR Manager, Elaine Davey said *"this gives a great opportunity to a small number of local young people to commence their working lives by gaining a qualification and obtaining 'on the job' skills and experience that they will require for their future"*.

Members of the LEAP team visited Cash Bases and discussed the company's requirements in detail. LEAP subsequently made recommendations as to the most appropriate training providers to meet business needs – liaised with SIGTA and Sussex Downs College to deliver motivated young apprentices to Cash Bases.

Apprentices are an exciting opportunity to invest in the future of your business. Get in contact with the LEAP team today on 0300 330 1450 or email info@yourleap.co.uk to find out more.



Tourist Centres Seasonal Changes

Please note that from 1 October to 31 March we will be changing to our winter opening hours.

Lewes TIC

187 High Street, Lewes.
Mon to Fri: 9:30 to 16:30
(closed 12:00 to 13:00)
Saturdays: 10:00 to 14:00
Sundays & Bank Hol: closed
T 01273 483448
E lewes.tic@lewes.gov.uk

Note Lewes TIC will be open all day on 31 October and 3, 4 and 5 November due to Lewes Bonfire.

Seaford TIC

37 Church Street, Seaford.
Mon to Fri: 9:00 to 16:45.
Sat/Sun & Bank Hol: closed
T 01323 897426
E seaford.tic@lewes.gov.uk

For quality assessed accommodation enquiries and events listings please visit www.staylewes.info, for independent B&Bs see www.lewesbandb.co.uk

Entrepreneurs:

Press cuttings from Sussex Express that include comments from LEAP entrepreneur candidates

Sussex Express 15/11/2013:

Win £3,000 to get a business going

15/11/13

Lewes District Council's LEAP initiative is inviting local residents to apply for a free programme of business training and mentoring, with the chance to win a cash prize of £3,000 to support their business.

LEAP's entrepreneur programme seeks to help local people with a business idea to develop their concepts into a viable and sustainable business.

Ahead of the programme Sarah Huntley, of Equine Elite, the winner of the first LEAP Entrepreneur of the Year award, described her LEAP experience.

She said: "LEAP has provided me with expert advice, business coaching and mentoring to support me in starting up my own business. It has been a superb scheme for me, and the coaching



Sarah Huntley with Cllr Rob Blackman and Wes Gano, from Let's Do Business

I have received has been invaluable. I have learnt how to write a business plan, complete financial forecasts, and many other vital business skills. I have gained an incredible amount from experts across a range of fields."

Sarah added: "After presenting my business plan to a board of expert judges, I was thrilled to

win the £3,000 cash prize. LEAP has been a brilliant experience and I would highly recommend it for anyone in Lewes District that wants to start up a new business or already has a fledgling start-up they would like to develop."

Visit LEAP online at <http://yourleap.co.uk> or call 0300 330 1450 to find out more.

COMMERCE

Sus Exp 20/6/14 Economic Development

Taking a giant LEAP forwards in business

By RUPERT TAYLOR
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An award-winning entrepreneur has praised Lewes District Council's LEAP initiative.

It seeks to help local people with a commercial idea and develop their concepts into a viable and sustainable business.

Now Jennifer Porteous, the council's Entrepreneur of the Year 2014, has given her views on the programme and why you should consider taking the LEAP.

"It has provided me with invaluable advice, coaching and mentoring to help me start The Tiny Vineyard Company," she said.

"The LEAP scheme provided me with many invaluable business skills including creating a business plan, pitching my idea and understanding my market, as well as the confidence to take the next step to make my dream a reality."

Jennifer's company beat off stiff competition from the other 12 candidates to win the £3,000 first prize and the coveted title of LEAP Entrepreneur of the Year 2014.

Her success was announced at the prestigious Lewes District Business Awards held in April, where the MC was TV news presenter Nicholas Owen.



Wine winner: Jennifer Porteous with Wes Gane, of Let's Do Business, and television newsmen Nicholas Owen

"I was thrilled to win the LEAP Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the £3,000 prize will allow me to launch The Tiny Vineyard Company very soon," said Jennifer.

"I would highly recommend LEAP to anyone who is thinking about starting their own business. It's given me new skills, contacts, confidence and knowledge to make

a success of my exciting new venture."

There will be a new LEAP Entrepreneur programme launching later this year. For more information, please get in contact with the LEAP team via email at info@yourleap.co.uk. For more information on Jennifer's new venture, follow her on Twitter at @TinyVineyard.

The Tiny Vineyard Company's website states that it wants to start a revolution in home vine-growing.

It wants to demystify the winemaking process, and make the experience from vine to wine a liberating, exciting, and educating journey and a unique way to make every celebration special with your own wine.

LEAP's making a difference

Lewes District Council's LEAP initiative has launched its latest entrepreneur training programme – the LEAP KickStart Awards.

LEAP KickStart seeks to help local people with a commercial idea and develop their concepts into a sustainable business.

Completing the LEAP training programme offers the opportunity to compete for a £3,000 cash prize, as well as receive support from experienced business leaders and mentors.

Sharon Lloyd, who was shortlisted to win the LEAP Entrepreneur of the Year 2014 award, highlights how valuable the LEAP programme has been as a motivational force in establishing her new venture.

Sharon's story is an inspiration for aspiring entrepre-

neurs locally.

"Picking up a LEAP leaflet in the Job Centre, little did I know that LEAP would wake up a part of me long since asleep – leading to an outflow of energy, imagination and above all, hope for the future," said Sharon.

"I was facing a difficult future, aged 54, and having been placed on a zero hours contract with little in the way of careers prospects. The LEAP leaflet was like a light bulb flicking on inside my head. The LEAP programme was free and offered a chance for me to make my dreams a reality. I just had to enter".

"Several months later, I have gone through detailed training workshops that have introduced me to every aspect of owning my own business, building a website;

social media tools, and I have been a finalist in the prestigious Lewes District Business Awards 2014. I now have a regular stream of customers for my company – Woof it Down – and our grain-free dog food products."

"I cannot praise the LEAP initiative enough. I wouldn't be where I am today, still 54, but in control of my own business and future, with a better life than I could ever have imagined. Don't be afraid – take the LEAP."

The LEAP KickStart programme is inviting Lewes District residents to enter the next programme, with a closing date of 12 September. Get in contact via email at info@yourleap.co.uk. To find out more about Sharon's company 'Woof it Down', follow her on Twitter @woofitdowndog

Feedback from LEAP KickStart 2014 participants:

"LEAP acted as a real catalyst for me and I am extremely grateful for having gone through the programme. As a tech start-up in a complex marketplace I needed all the support I could get. I now have the confidence, contacts and strategy to move forwards."

Matthew Baker, Spaceify Ltd

"The LEAP course was a great opportunity to make my thoughts about starting a business into a reality. The other members of the course along with all the speakers were very inspirational and made any thoughts of 'why am I here?' disappear immediately. The more you say your elevator pitch the more it becomes a reality. Thank you for the opportunity."

Penny Crawley, Penny Crawley Designs

"I thoroughly enjoyed the whole process and found the workshops incredibly informative...I would recommend the LEAP KickStart programme to anyone who wants to make that first step towards finding out whether that great idea has legs in the business world."

Harriet Knights, Eat Up!