

14 July 2025

ATISN 24822

Dear

Thank you for your request for information dated 17 June.

Information requested

1. What funding, grants or mentoring schemes exist for young people to start businesses in Neath Port Talbot?
2. Number of 18–30s who have accessed any business startup support in the past 3 years.
3. Any tendered services aimed at encouraging enterprise among NEETs or ex-offenders.

Our response

What funding, grants or mentoring schemes exist for young people to start businesses in Neath Port Talbot?

Welsh Government funding, grants and mentoring schemes are available across Wales for young people who wish to start a business. Information is available in the public domain and can be found here:

- Young Person's Start-up Grant to support young people under 25 years of age to start a business:
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/bigideas/young-persons-start-grant>
- Big Ideas Wales, part of the Business Wales service provides dedicated advisory support through events, workshops and 1-2-1 advisory support to mentor and help young people that are considering starting a business. [Our Support | Business Wales - Big Ideas](#)
- Development Bank of Wales start-up loans for 18-30 year olds:
<https://developmentbank.wales/business-need/starting-business>
<https://developmentbank.wales/young-entrepreneurs>
- Employees facing redundancy from Tata Steel UK who are considering self-employment or starting a business:
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/business-wales-support-tata-steel-transition>
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/self-employment-and-start-fund-enquiry-form>
- Business Wales Finance Zone and Finance Locator for finding wider funding sources:
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/businessfinance>
- Business Wales Mentoring is available for start-ups:
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/mentoring>

Number of 18–30s who have accessed any business startup support in the past 3 years.

Please note the Welsh Government only holds records for under 25 years of age or over 25 years age. From 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2025 3,079 young people aged 25 years or under have accessed Welsh Government start-up support (Business Wales or Big Ideas Wales).

Any tendered services aimed at encouraging enterprise among NEETs or ex-offenders.

Business Wales is a Welsh Government service that was procured via competitive tender. Whilst not solely aimed at young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) or ex-offenders, one of the aims of the service is to encourage entrepreneurship and enterprise in young people and help tackle common barriers to business start-up, which can be exacerbated for those who are NEET.

The Welsh Government's Young Person's Guarantee provides support for young people aged 16 to 24 living in Wales to gain a place in education or training or help to get into work or self-employment. The enhanced support from the Young Persons Guarantee has focussed on addressing the awareness of entrepreneurship, reducing the barriers to ensure young people have viable business start-ups to provide sustainable employment.

Business Wales engages with NEETs and young offenders to inspire them and to consider self-employment as a viable future pathway. Business Wales has delivered start-up workshops, webinars and role model sessions in prisons and in collaboration with community organisations and Job Centres.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely