

Thinking about

Self employment?

An easier read guide to starting your own business

5. Support





Rapid Enterprise Development (RED) operates across the health, employment, disability and social care sectors to offer interactive and accessible approaches to the development of enterprise opportunities with and for disabled people. For more information about the RED business guides, training resources and strategic support packages, visit our website:

www.rapid-enterprise.co.uk

RED is part of Mutually Inclusive Partnerships:

www.mutuallyinclusive.co.uk

(For RED Australia visit www.redbiz.com.au)



Introduction

The recent health crisis is changing the way we work. As a result, many people with learning difficulties are worried about their job or wonder if they will be able to get one in the future.

For some, the answer may lie in setting up their own business.

Self-employment can provide opportunities for people to use their skills and talents, create their own employment opportunities and have more control over how and where they work.



Thinking about self-employment? is a series of guides developed by Mutually Inclusive Partnerships as part of it's RED programme to help more disabled people explore self employment and small business ownership.

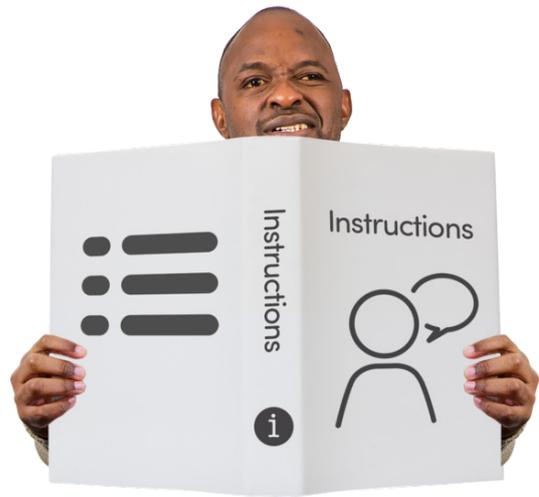
Of course, these short guides cannot cover everything and there may be more to think about if you decide that self-employment is something you want to explore further. More tools and resources are available on the RED website:

www.rapid-enterprise.co.uk.

All business ideas take time to develop, but by making the journey to enterprise a more straightforward and enjoyable experience, we hope that the guides go some way to support more people consider this route to work.

How to use these guides

These guides are designed to help you think about your business idea so you can see if it's likely to be a success.



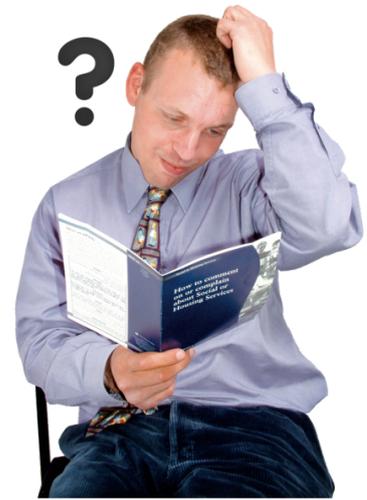
There are five guides in the series. Each one looks at an important aspect of running an enterprise:

1. Your business idea
2. Getting productive
3. Money
4. Customers
- 5. Support**



At the end of each section there is a worksheet to complete and questions to help you think about different aspects of your business idea. Later, these can be used as part of a business plan.

We have included pictures and tried to write in plain English. However, some business words might still be difficult to understand.



We have written these words in red. You can find out what these words mean at the end of the guide.

If you need some extra help you could look at the guides with someone from your family, a friend or a support worker.

Let's get started...



5. Support

So far, we have been thinking mainly about your business and about whether it will work.

Now you have worked through the other sections, it is time to think about the support you will need to take things forward.



This is the same for nearly all businesses so it's important to plan for the support you will need, now and in the future.

Developing self-employment opportunities needs careful planning and support for both the business and the individual.

For some this will be just at the start, to help them develop their ideas and learn the ropes.

Others may need support longer term; perhaps with money or finance.

People might need help with making their **product** or delivering the **service**.



Or they might only need support with making decisions, running the business or filling in forms.

You may be able to get help from a Job Coach or support worker who can guide you through the process. Check that they have the right **enterprise** skills and knowledge.



Many people get support from parents or other family members but a support circle can also be a particularly good way to make sure you have the support you need to take things forwards.

Can someone help you set up a circle of support for your **enterprise**? Support circles are often made up of family and friends, support worker or other people who know about your type of business idea.



You might want to get in touch with your local council. They usually have people who can help with business training and advice: <https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support>



Who will support you?

In this section you need to describe the support you need to do the job. This involves thinking about the support you'll need to make your **product** or deliver your **service**.



However, it might also be support for other aspects of running your business, staying motivated or increasing sales.

- Will this support be to make or do your **product** or **service**?
- Do you need support every day or every now and then?
- Will you need help with transport?
- Is there any other help you need to get started?
- Who do you know who can help you with your business?

Top tip
all businesses
need support so it's
important to plan for
the support you'll
need

Worksheet 5 - Who will support you?

What support do I need?

Who can help?

Support for me:

1.

2.

3.

4.

General business support:

1.

2.

3.

4.

What support do I need?

Who can help?

Support for my type of business:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



Congratulations!

You have now completed all 5 sections.

You have looked at sections that explored, good business ideas, productivity, money, customers and support.

This guide is just to get you started, but hopefully it has helped you to develop an idea that you can now take forward with the support you need.

Don't worry if this feels a bit scary, lots of people are nervous at the start. Of course, you might have decided that you need to spend more time thinking things over. That's fine too, it's important that you do things at your own pace.

However, if you are ready to get started, writing a business plan will continue many of the things you have been thinking about already. It will explain why you think your idea will work and what has to happen next.

Our Business Plan Guide may help, but talk to your family, job coach or anyone else who you want to work with and start planning your next steps towards self employment.

Good luck!



Business words used in this guide

Enterprise - another word for a business.

Product - something you make to sell.

Service - something you do for other people.



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research : innovation : enterprise