

A snapshot of GLL's Start Up Business Services

- Embedded within library services as an information and resource provision to drive community impact and social value
- Practical business training sessions, workshops and webinars
- Networking and livestreamed events
- Access to Start Up Business Weeks and Global Entrepreneurship Weeks
- Work spaces for businesses
- Access to British Library BIPC local and national resources
- Access to GLL library catalogues and online resources
- Local delivery in Bromley, Greenwich and Wandsworth
- To date we have received £740k of government funding which has been used to deliver 350 business support events and more than 450 advice sessions with aspiring entrepreneurs and small business start-ups.



Overview of Start Up Bromley

- Start Up Bromley launched in September 2020 with ARG funding of £350,000 from Bromley Council
- Funding was used to develop a business support service, as well as providing dedicated physical spaces for businesses to work from
- There are business lounges within Bromley Central, Orpington and Biggin Hill libraries (as well as meeting rooms and a workshop room for business use at Bromley central)
- Halifax have used the Orpington Library Business Lounge, and Barclays use Biggin Hill business lounge
- Business mentoring & coaching, expert led 121's, markets, livestreamed events and access to COBRA represent additional value add support packages.
- Member of BIPC London Local Network
- Start Up Bromley is delivering a £100,000 UKSPF funded business resilience programme. Funding ends in March 2026.
- 887 Start Up Bromley members within our business community.



Overview of Start Up Greenwich

- Start Up Greenwich launched September 2022, after delivering the SiLL project in Greenwich from 2019-2021
- Supports aspiring entrepreneurs, start -ups and more established businesses reach their business goals
- Encourage members to build their entrepreneurial skills and confidence, as well as facilitate their access to information and resources
- Business mentoring, expert led 121's, business grants, livestreamed events and access to COBRA represent additional value add support packages
- Member of BIPC London Local Network
- We are delivering a £170,000 UKSPF funded business resilience programme with South East Enterprise. Funding ends in March 2026.
- 464 Start Greenwich businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs within our community.



Overview of Start Up Wandsworth

- Start Up Wandsworth launched in January 2023 after Wandsworth libraries received significant funding to create of workspaces in Putney and York Gardens Library
- Start Up Wandsworth also provides business support activities such as business clinics, workshops, training sessions, webinars and networking opportunities
- Member of the BIPC London Network
- Members have access to COBRA
- No UKSPF funding. Wandsworth libraries self - fund the service
- 317 Start Up Wandsworth members businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs within our community.



West Kent Business Support Programme

- Supporting businesses in Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells
- Providing business mentoring sessions, workshops, webinars networking events and a £15,000 grants programme
- Delivering the West Kent Expo in Tonbridge on March 11th 2026
- West Kent Business Project Coordinator in post
- Relationships formed with Kent County Council, Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce and local business experts etc
- Delivered 7 events so far, with dozens of businesses engaged in the mentoring programme
- £75,000 UKSPF grant funding. Funding ends at the end of March 2026.



Success and Achievements

- Four successful Business Weeks, with over a 2,500 participants in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- Delivery of events with high profile individuals such as Emily Maitlis (journalist), David Smith (Economics Editor of the Times), Harry Redknapp and Dave Fishwick (Bank of Dave)
- Over 1,600 Start Up members
- Successful partnerships with Wickes, Barclays and Halifax to deliver business support activities at their offices, as well these some of these partners using library spaces to deliver financial services
- Successful collaboration with library teams e.g. Bromley Library Lates 2023, 2024 + 2025
- Collaboration with GLL National initiatives such as the Literary Foundation

