

Jesters Childcare

Peer Networks' Journey

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Business Essex, Southend and Thurrock



• The Enlightened Choice of Childcare •

Building futures for the next generation

Background

Jesters provides a high-quality, Ofsted regulated childcare and education services for families of children from 0 - 12. A social enterprise with three settings (Bicknacre and recently expanded into Danbury and Beaulieu - as part of Essex County Council's new all through school.)

<https://jesterskids.org>

The Global Pandemic impacted the business, with many parents working from home and reduced requirement for childcare. Whilst early years remained open from 1st July 2020, summer school camps suffered greatly as well as out of school childcare.

Alison Doherty is Managing Director of the 20-year-old business with 24 full-time employees. Despite having a successful business model, Alison needed strategic support to drive the business forward ahead of creating a new position for a Business Development Manager.

She viewed Peer Networks as an opportunity to refresh her own thinking.

How Peer Networks helped

Alison originally discovered about Peer Networks via her Accountants. She was keen to be part of something that was focussed on the action learning methodology. Having been very impressed with a previous engagement with the Growth Hub, she was happy to discuss her business with her cohort in a safe, secure, stimulating, challenging and consolidating environment.

Peer Networks gave her the opportunity to stop and consider life and business from all sorts of angles, including dedicated thinking time for pertinent issues like performance management, managing your manager and managing stakeholders.

An additional benefit of Peer Networks is that Alison has signed up to the University of Essex investment workshops and has had discussions with ARU around internships. Alison has joined the LinkedIn Group and noted that there have been business opportunities all round.

Jesters Childcare (Alison Doherty) says:

"I have now got an amazing network of business specialists around me. My cohort members have real specialisms. Without a doubt, Peer Networks has reignited my love of business. A real reconnection back to business. I've also valued the opportunity to work with the Growth Hub Navigators and Adaptation Advisors.

Ben Hunt-Davis, the Olympian, was so inspirational when he made a guest appearance in our cohort."

How Peer Networks can help your business

Learn from your peers: Find solutions to the real issues your business is facing by working with other local business leaders facing similar challenges.

All it takes is your time: Peer Networks is a completely free programme, all it takes is a few hours of your time each month. You can join virtual sessions from the comfort of your home or office.

Varied delivery, real results: Activities take place in structured, small-group sessions, led by a skilled professional facilitator to make sure you see real

results in return for the investment of your time. You will also benefit from access to 1:1 mentoring, coaching or advice depending on the support you need.

Non-competitive: Peer Networks brings together business leaders working collaboratively to find solutions to common problems. You will not be placed in a group with any competitors, so you can share your expertise and benefit from others.

For more information about Peer Networks, visit

www.peernetworks.co.uk

Peer Networks is powered by the BEST Growth Hub

The BEST Growth Hub offers free, impartial advice to help Essex-based businesses grow.

At the BEST Growth Hub, we help our clients make smarter decisions centred around the four key components of running a business:

planning | growing | solving | adapting

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