



Speed Mentoring Event Toolkit



Table of Contents

1.	Overview	3
2.	The quick guide	4
3.	Setting the scene	5
4.	Developing the event	6
5.	Registration of delegates	7
6.	Marketing your event	8
7.	The event itself	9
8.	Post event activities	.12
9.	Contacting SFEDI	.13
Append	lix 1 - Registration of delegates (sample questions)14	
Append	lix 2 - Communications prior to the event (sample emails)15	
Append	lix 3 - The welcome presentation (template)16	
Append	lix 4 - Mentoring record sheet (example)17	
Append	lix 5 - Table plan (sample)18	
Append	lix 6 - Feedback questionnaire (template)19	



Ô

1. Overview

About this guide

This Speed Mentoring Event Toolkit, developed by the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI), aims to provide an 'off the shelf' guide for organisations that would like to run a speed mentoring event to connect mentors and businesses. It provides a generic format for a speed mentoring event, associated communications, and some ideas for additional activities to support the event. It starts with a <u>quick guide</u> to give you an overview of what's involved and then goes into much more detail about the considerations for each element of the event.

SFEDI has developed this guide to encourage more organisations across the UK and beyond to deliver mentoring events and similar activities. If you benefit from the information we've provided here we would love it if you gave us a small credit in your event communications. Also, it would be fantastic if you helped us build on this guide by letting us know how the event went for your organisation and, of course, we'll credit you in this guide too.

The SFEDI Group of companies deliver enterprise learning, qualifications and projects across the UK, please <u>get in touch</u> if you'd like to discuss any ways we can collaborate or support your enterprise activities.

We wish you every success with your speed mentoring event.

How this guide came about

Throughout February and March 2013, SFEDI worked in collaboration with the British Bankers' Association (BBA) to run a series of Meet A Mentor events across England to bring together volunteer mentors, that had completed the Government funded 'Introduction to Enterprise Mentoring' training as part of the Get Mentoring scheme, with businesses looking for a mentor. The objective was to bring together 50 mentors and 50 mentees at each event and create an opportunity for each delegate to meet at least five connections that could lead to future mentoring relationships.

As well as the benefit of creating connections, running the events also provided an opportunity to raise the profile of mentoring and encourage all businesses that became aware of the events to consider sourcing a mentor.

There was an extremely strong demand for the events from mentors and businesses looking for mentors and therefore an event could generate a great of interest amongst your business community. To tap into existing networks and generate a similar level of interest see the Identifying partners and sources of support' section.

The benefits of Speed Mentoring

An enterprise mentor supports a new or existing business owner as they develop themselves and their business. Excellent mentoring relationships are a two way relationship built on trust - with both parties learning new things from the other.

Mentoring relationships develop in many ways. Some evolve over time, such as an employer turning into a mentor as the employee leaves to set up their own business. Others may be the result of a chance meeting at a networking event where they find a common interest in each other's business objectives. Other relationships may be the result of a detailed matching process organised by a formal mentoring scheme which often take into account background, future aspirations and personality.

A speed mentoring event could potentially support all of these approaches. It could kick start connections that build over time, create chance meetings which lead to mentoring relationships very soon afterwards, and for formal schemes speed up the resource intensive matching process by enabling mentors and businesses meet many potential matches in a short period of time. A short meeting can often be enough time for people to decide whether there is enough of a connection to take the conversation further.

For organisations new to mentoring, organising a speed mentoring event can also help the team gain a better insight into the mentors and businesses interested in mentoring in its community, and for all organisations, the process of promoting the event can raise the profile of wider mentoring and business support services.

2. The quick guide

There are lots of ways to approach the organisation of a speed mentoring event, and this toolkit provides details on the options open to you along the way. Before getting start, here's a quick guide on the key steps to go through.

STEP 1: Decide on the objectives (these may include):

- a. To support the development of a target number of mentoring relationships
- b. To promote the benefits of mentoring
- c. To understand more about businesses engaged in mentoring in your region/sector
- STEP 2: Select a target audience:
 - d. recruit appropriate mentors
 - e. enlist potential mentees
 - f. identify partners and collaborators to support the event

STEP 3: Plan event structure:

- a. set time and date
- b. establish a venue
- c. arrange for <u>refreshments</u>

STEP 4: Invite the mentors and mentees:

- a. Upload event invite onto your own website or Eventbrite
- b. Create an online registration form or a single point of contact for registrations
- c. Email potential delegates to promote the event
- d. Email partners to ask them to promote the event
- e. Send confirmations and a <u>reminder to registered delegates</u> one week and a couple of days before the event and ask them to let you know if they can no longer attend.
- STEP 5: Develop the event format
 - a. A welcome and introduction to mentoring
 - b. An explanation of the process, objectives and outcomes
 - c. The <u>speed mentoring</u>
 - d. Informal networking
 - e. Optional extras to support connections

STEP 6: Event preparation

- a. Print delegate sheets with allocated name, number and description
- b. Print badges with name, number and mentor/mentee signifier
- c. Decide what additional <u>materials and resources</u> to provide.

STEP 7: Gather feedback and evaluate the event

- a. Decide what you want to assess and how you will measure connections made
- b. Send out a post-event survey
- a. Use results to modify future speed mentoring events and measure return on investment.

Δ

3. Setting the scene

Before embarking on the organisation of a speed mentoring event, answering the following questions can help shape the type of event you run.

What are the main event objectives?

Considering the objectives up front will influence the style of the event, the resource required, the expectation of delegates, and the possible outcomes. The objectives below for instance change the style of the event staged.

Objective	May result in an event which is:
To raise awareness of the benefits of mentoring and your organisation's support for businesses	An informal, speed mentoring session, which gets budding mentors and businesses together. Some relationships may develop as a result, however the priority is for people to learn more about mentoring, learn more about your organisation and to make some useful connections.
To create a high number of mentoring relationships	A more formal business event with 'added value' activities designed to encourage matches. This might include detailed data capture on delegates at sign up, seating plans clustering people together with shared interests and follow on support for those that didn't find a match.

These approaches are clearly at opposite ends of the scale and your event might have elements of both. Hopefully this document provides a mix and match approach so that you can design an event to suit your objectives.

Who is the event for?

The event might be for a general business audience, or it might focus on a specific sector or demographic. Focusing the event may increase a likelihood of mentoring relationships as there may be more chance for commonality and/or meeting expectations, however it could also reduce the size of the audience interested in signing up. Ways to narrow the delegate criteria might include:

Mentees	Mentors
Business sector	Sector knowledge
Business challenges (i.e. exporting, marketing, growth)	Area of expertise (i.e. exporting, marketing, growth)
Stage of business (i.e. pre start, growing)	Stage of business they prefer to support.
Geographical location	Geographical location
Knowledge of mentoring / readiness to be mentored	Level of mentor training / experience of mentoring
Whether they are looking for volunteer or paid for	Whether they are a volunteer or a paid mentor
mentoring	

Even if the event is open to all, it could be that some of these are built into questions at sign up to help bring together people with common interests on the day.

How much time will you need to recruit for the event?

If you have an existing bank of mentors and a community of businesses to promote the event to, at least 6 weeks' notice is usually enough to secure diary time.

If it is a new audience that will need to be recruited via partners, social media and other channels, allow for 10 weeks ideally, to find the right partners and explore promotional routes.

What will happen after the event?

Delegates will want to know what is expected of them after the event. It may be up to them to follow up any connections made, or your organisation might prefer to be a conduit for people interested in connecting after the event. You will also need to decide how (and if) you want to support people that didn't find a match on the day.



Discussing and agreeing your planned follow up before organising the event will help you consider the resource needed for different scenarios and will help you set the expectations of the delegates before, during and after the event.

What budget do you have to allocate for the event?

The budget you're prepared to allocate is likely to be decided upon by the value to your organisation of supporting mentoring connections and raising awareness of mentoring. Quantifying these as targets for the event helps anticipate the return on investment and gauge the success of the event.

Working with venue, catering and promotional partners can keep costs down.

4. Developing the event

Timings and agenda

Potential timings for a speed mentoring event are in 'The event running order'.

This could be run at any time of day depending on your target audience, budget and other influences. For instance between 1pm-4.30pm to reduce catering costs, or in the evening to create a more social feel. We got some feedback from delegates asking for it to be a much longer event, with the opportunity to meet even more people on the day, therefore if you think this would work for your delegates it's worth considering.

The venue

A speed mentoring event can be run in a large room set out 'cabaret style' with 8-10 delegates on each table or with long tables where the mentors and businesses face each other. Once the speed mentoring starts it can quite a noisy event and therefore room to spread out and good acoustics can help. The room needs to be spacious enough to allow for delegates to comfortably move around too.

Finding a room laid out in either of these styles for 100+ people can be expensive, particularly with catering on top. If catering is the largest proportion of the cost the venue might consider waving the booking fee in favour of a 'catering costs only' arrangement.

Venues that can work include hotels, football clubs, colleges, libraries, conference centres and business parks, or you could explore more alternative venues like wine bars, independent cinemas and museums which can add an extra element of interest when promoting the event and work as an ice breaker for delegates too.

The catering

A minimum requirement is likely to be tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival. If the event runs over a meal time delegates are likely to expect to be catered for, if this isn't the case, or you are giving them a break to purchase their own lunch, it's a good idea to make this clear in the event communications.

Feedback from previous speed mentoring has shown that nearly 44% of delegates felt that catering was 'Essential', and 40% considered it to be 'a nice extra, but not essential'. Only 20% said they 'hardly noticed it', 'it was not required at all' or gave no answer.

A networking period with lunch or snacks can certainly help people feel more comfortable and engaged, however it doesn't have to be the most expensive option to be effective.

Identifying partners and sources of support

Working in partnership can be a great way to increase awareness of the event, reach a new audience and reduce expenditure. There are also some useful sources of support to promote your event too. Some ideas are:



To source mentors:

- Contact the IOEE (info@ioee.co.uk) to promote your event to volunteer mentors that completed the Introduction to Enterprise Mentoring training as part of the Get Mentoring scheme (www.getmentoring.org)
- Contact a mentoring organisation on Mentorsme (www.mentorsme.co.uk) to build a partnership with a mentoring organisation in your region or sector that be interested in collaborating on an event and may have links with mentors and businesses interested in getting involved.
- You can also contact the Local Enterprise Partnership, Chamber of Commerce, local business networks, FSBs, Local Authorities amongst others, as they may run a mentoring scheme or simply be interested in encouraging the established business owners in their to mentor other local businesses.

To source businesses looking for mentors:

- Develop a partnership with a regional organisation that has strong connections with the kind of businesses you aim to support. As above this might be the LEP, Chamber of Commerce, FSB, FPB, or another well regarded regional business network.
- The Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs also has a large affiliate membership of those running new or growing businesses, email info@ioee.co.uk to promote your event to IOEE members.
- Build a partnership with an organisation with a particular focus area, such as one supporting female led businesses, young entrepreneurs, or over 50 as this may also attract a similar sign up from mentors with an interest in working with businesses in this area.

To promote the event:

- A media partner such as the local paper, online business site or business magazine may be interested in promoting the event in exchange for content and increased profile amongst a new business audience.
- A venue partner may offer the venue in exchange for being credited in the promotional activity.
- A funding partner, such as a LEP or local council, who may contribute to the costs or organisation if the outcomes also match their own organisation's objectives.

Partners can be recognised for their support by including their logos on the sign up page, email promotions, event handouts and presentations.

5. Registration of delegates

Gathering the right data

Before promoting the event decide the best way for people to register. You might prefer to get them to respond direct to one individual, however this can be quite a large admin task particularly if you aim to gather a fair bit of information from delegates prior to the event.

Alternatively you could use a free online tool such as Eventbrite to manage all of the delegate data in one place. This can also be useful as a tool for gathering the required information from delegates at sign up stage and for keeping an up to date record of delegates. Eventbrite can also manage communications with delegates in the run up to the event and a waiting list should your event oversubscribe.

Sample questions for the information you might require from people at sign up are in <u>Appendix 1 - Registration of</u> <u>Delegates</u>. These questions will clearly change depending on your objectives for the event and the delegate criteria.

Depending on the objectives and sources of funding you may choose to charge delegates to attend, a financial commitment can sometimes useful as a way to make people less likely to drop out on the day. If this is the case it can be built into the sign up process and a tool like Eventbrite can again support this.



Communications with delegates - before the event

As a guide, these are the key points at which to send an email communication to delegates:

- Confirmation of their registration at point of sign up
- Reminder 2 weeks before encouraging people to let you know if they can't attend
- Reminder 1 week before with agenda and as above
- Reminder 48 hours before parking, access, what to bring.

Sample emails for all of these are in Appendix 2 - Communications prior to the event.

The delegate list - what to include

As people start registering you will be gathering the data for the delegate list. You will need to decide what information to share about individuals on the delegate list on the day. For the Meet A Mentor events we collated the first name, surname and the short business/expertise description into a delegate sheet and handed this out on the day.

You might decide to go for less info and let people learn about each other solely based on the speed mentoring, or could include more info such as location and key sectors. Your approach will probably depend on your objectives for the event. If you want to share contact details you will need their consent prior to the event and it is best to do this at sign up stage.

We also numbered all of the delegates on the delegate list in order for people to find it easy to make a note of numbers instead of names during the speed mentoring, enabling them to refer back to the delegate list later.

The delegate list - send before or hand out on the day?

Many delegates prefer to have the delegate list prior to the event to have time to work out who they would like to connect with on the day. This can be a great idea, but a few things to consider are:

- If people see the list in advance they might be more reluctant to get involved in the speed mentoring as they
 have had time to select people they would like to meet beforehand. There may be ways around this by
 communicating opportunities for people to meet those they have identified on the list during a longer
 networking period at another point in the event. We have shared a few ideas on how to facilitate this in 'Other
 ideas for supporting connections'.
- 2. If a mentor or mentee doesn't find anyone of immediate interest to them in the delegate list, they may be more likely to drop out of the event.
- 3. If you send out names prior to the event people may do some pre event research on individuals online. You can get around this by sending out a list with only the delegate number and description.
- 4. The list may change on the run up to the event if people drop out at short notice.

There are pros and cons of both approaches and your decision will probably be based on your objectives and audience.

6. Marketing your event

Finding the right partners and collaborators can help to achieve the main sign up for your event. However, it's likely that some additional promotion of the event will be required.

Some ideas for potential marketing channels to help promote your event are:

- Mentorsme.co.uk send details to media@betterbusinessfinance.co.uk to request for your event to be listed on the site.
- Mentoring and Enterprise Monthly email details to info@ioee.co.uk and ask if it can be included in the next edition.
- Gov.uk add your organisation to the list of event organisers at www.gov.uk/events-finder and add your event to the site.

- Eventbrite If you use Eventbrite to manage your event, be sure to make your event 'public' so that it can be found by anyone looking for business events in your region.
- Facebook add the event to your organisation's Facebook page encourage followers to share with their networks, if you have a promotional budget you can boost the reach of the event.
- Twitter create a tweet schedule, aiming for two a day, with statements about mentoring and a link to the event. A tool like HootSuite or SproutSocial can help.
- Linkedin share information about the event in your organisation's Linkedin page and post in groups interested in mentoring and business.
- Regional business clubs and networks Email a short description about your event and ask if they would be happy to add it to their website, newsletter or tweet about it.
- Hashtags Encourage signed up delegates to tweet about the event once they've signed up by adding a hashtag to your communications, such as #speedmentoringevent.
- PR Use an existing positive case study about mentoring, along with the event details and good accompanying
 photo and send it to the business desk of your regional paper. Invite the journalist to attend too if they would
 like to find more stories of new and growing businesses benefitting from mentoring from established business
 people in the area.

7. The event itself

The	avant	areas
IIIE	event	ureus

Registration desk	Badges and delegate sheets
Cloakroom	Providing a place for coats and laptop bags can remove obstacles in from the tables during the speed mentoring part of the day.
Presentation area	Presentation on laptop (first slide can be the table plan of the room with delegate numbers on) projector, microphone, stopwatch, whistle
Delegate tables	 The tables are laid out alternately with mentors and mentees, an even amount on each table. Each table setting has a speed mentoring record sheet, pocketbook, badge, pen, water and a table number.
Catering /networking area	Refreshments, leaflets and flyers of interest Potentially photo wall or mentoring grid if used.

The event team

The various roles you may need to support the event are:

- Two people to register delegates as they arrive.
- Someone to open the event, present the mentoring role and set expectations for the day
- A facilitator to manage the speed mentoring session
- Supporting facilitators to support the movement of people during the speed mentoring session.
- A time keeper

Some of these roles can be doubled up, however for an event of 100 people, aim to have at least 4 people supporting the event. It's useful if more than one of these people is able to present and facilitate the event so that an absence or illness isn't a large risk factor for the event.

The resources

- Delegate sheets given out on arrival (with delegate number and description)
- Delegate list to tick off delegates as they arrive
- Delegate badges (with number and Mentor/Mentee printed largely on the badge)
- The welcome presentation (<u>Appendix 3</u>)
- Speed mentoring record sheets for each delegate (<u>Appendix 4</u>)
- Pens for each delegate

- Whistle (or alternative)
- Stopwatch

Optional resources are:

- Mentor/mentee button badges
- Mentor/mentee matching grid
- Mentor/mentee pocketbooks*
- A table plan to help people find people they're interested in connecting with on the delegate list
- A photo wall on arrival to make it easier for delegates to find each other throughout the event
- A connection grid to help people connect with others on the day.

*Hard copy pocketbooks are available to order from SFEDI.

The event running order

This is based on an event running from 10am - 1.30pm.

10.00	Delegates arrive	 Receive badge and delegate sheet Signpost to a mentor or mentee seat Tick off on the master delegate list
10.30	Introduction and welcome	See a potential presentation template in <u>Appendix 3</u> .
11.00	Speed mentoring	See 'How to run the speed mentoring session' below.
12.00	Lunch and networking	See 'Other ideas for supporting connections' later on in this chapter.
13.30	Close	If delegates leave before the end of the networking time it's useful to take a note of these in case other delegates are still trying to find them.

How to run the speed mentoring session

The idea of this session is to bring together chance pairings for a short time and enable them to 'test out' potential mentoring relationships that they may want to pursue later.

If people have had time to look at the delegate list in depth they may be keen to meet certain people. Reassure delegates that they will be able to seek out particular people later in the day, or may even meet them during the speed mentoring, however this session is primarily designed to get everyone in the mentoring mindset and enable several chance meetings that often reveal surprising synergies.

The speed mentoring can be organised as follows (and again you may choose to adapt this depending on your audience):

- 1. Each speed mentoring session lasts 8 minutes.
- 2. There is a 2 minute 'changeover' time between each session.
- 3. Ask all of the mentees to stand up and make their first move*.
- 4. At the start signal we used a whistle mentees turn and talk to the mentor on their right.
- 5. When they hear the signal again, this indicates that you have 30 seconds to wind up your conversation, make notes on the record sheet and exchange business cards, etc.
- 6. The final sound signal indicates the end of the session.
- 7. Ask that delegates are then quiet to hear the next moving instructions.
- 8. Once people are settled the next session will begin.
- 9. The objective is to fit in 6 sessions in one hour.

The stage of the session can be supported visually with stop/go/move slides too.



*As delegates will have already spent some time getting to know people on their table since arrival, it can be a good idea to start with a table move (table 1 to 2, 2 to 3, etc, not forgetting that the last table will move to table 1).

Once they are on a new table you can ask them to talk to the mentor on their right, and then move clockwise around the table. Suggest table moves when mentees have talked to all mentors on the table. You could of course ask mentors to do the moving instead.

Dealing with uneven numbers

It is extremely difficult to ensure an even match of mentors and mentees on the day. On the run up to the event you can encourage delegates to inform you if they can't attend, and release places to either mentors or mentees on a waiting list. However even an exact match on morning of the event doesn't guarantee a 100% attendance rate on either side.

There are a few approaches to deal with people with no one to talk to during the speed mentoring sessions:

- Ask them to raise their hand: even with the best efforts it's hard to get an exact match of mentors and mentees on each table. If people can let you know if they're stranded you can bring people together from different parts of the room.

- **Set expectations:** tell people that there may be times during the session that they don't have a connection and during this time they can grab a coffee, read the delegate list, take notes or take a comfort break.

- **Bring in the team:** ask the team members to get involved as required. They can have a 'speed meeting' during a few of the sessions to help the mentor or mentee find out more about the mentoring activities of your organisation.

- Get others involved in the event: If you have invited partners and collaborators to attend ask up front if they'd be interested in getting involved in the speed mentoring session.

- Encourage peer to peer mentoring: If there are more in one grouping than another, encourage them to get to know another mentor/mentee to share best practice and discuss challenges.

Other ideas for supporting connections

Table numbering

If delegates are allocated to a specific table on arrival, once the networking has finished, ask everyone to return to their 'home table' where they can potentially be found by someone that has spotted them on the list. You can then split the remaining networking time into 'mentors look for mentees' and 'mentees look for mentors' to assist with this.

The mentor / mentee grid

Another potential tool is a large grid where mentors and mentees can mark individuals they'd like to make contact with. This has mentor delegate numbers across the top and mentee numbers down the left hand side. Delegates make a cross in the box that corresponds to their number and the number of the person they would like to meet. You can then allocate networking time for 'mentors to find mentees', or vice versa so that people can find those they're interested in or have expressed an interest in them. It's a good idea to combine this activity with the table plan, so people can find each other more easily.

The photo wall

This can be a nice icebreaker as well as a way of helping people find those they're looking for. Using a Polaroid camera take a photo of every delegate on arrival. Write their delegate number on the photo and arrange by mentor and mentee and then by delegate number. During the networking periods people can refer to the photo wall if they need to get a clue about the person they're seeking.



8. Post event activities

The feedback questionnaire

You could hand out feedback questionnaires on the day, but people can often rush their answers or they get lost in the post event networking. It also means that someone has to type up responses afterwards.

Alternatively, send delegates a digital questionnaire shortly after the event using online software such as Survey Monkey. This enables you track an individual's response from their email address and analyse responses.

The feedback questionnaire should be designed with clear objectives about what you aim to learn from the findings. This can include quantitative findings so that you can develop stats like 'percentage of connections made' and 'percentage of people who thought the event exceeded expectations', and qualitative findings, such as quotes from delegates saying how useful they found the event or why mentoring is important for their business.

For a potential template to use as a starting point see <u>Appendix 6</u>.

Post event communications

To maximise the awareness raising activities after the event take photos of the event, using a professional photographer if possible, and write a press release about the day.

This can celebrate the success of the day, include quotes from your organisation, a mentor, and a mentee, and inform people how they can get involved in future activities.

A few weeks after the event you could also follow up delegates and write up case studies of successful mentoring relationships for your own communications and other media channels. Please feel free to send any case studies to the IOEE as we may be able to include them in <u>Mentoring and Enterprise Monthly</u>.



9. Contacting SFEDI

We hope you have found this toolkit a useful resource for developing a speed mentoring event. The SFEDI Group delivers projects, qualifications and learning in the world of enterprise. Please get in contact if you would like to discuss any ways we can support your enterprising activities.

The Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs - The online learning institute for enterprising people.

<u>SFEDI Awards</u> - The awarding organisation for enterprising qualifications.

SFEDI Solutions - Research and best practice knowledge sharing in enterprise learning and support.

Enterprise Inside - Projects to build the enterprising skills of organisations and individuals.

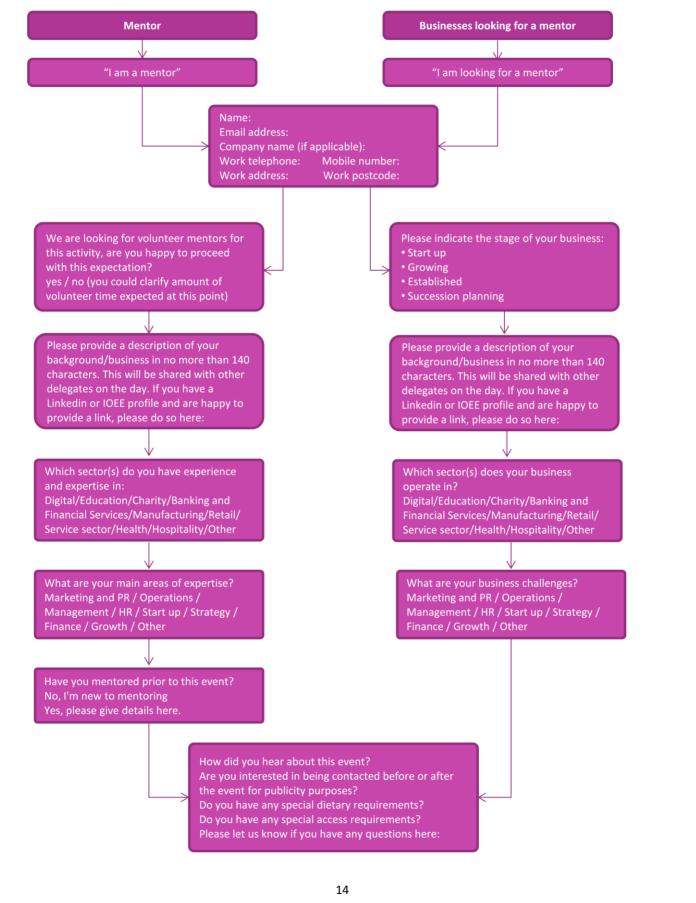
The Meet A Mentor events and this toolkit were developed by Sophie Hardwick at SFEDI. Please feel free to get in touch with feedback about this toolkit and/or questions about future events:

Email: <a>sophie.hardwick@sfedi.co.uk or call 07904 304750.



Appendix 1 - Registration of delegates (sample questions)

These questions are just suggestions and you may prefer to collect less information or to know more from delegates at sign up. These questions allow for slightly different questions depending on ticket types.



Appendix 2 - Communications prior to the event (sample emails)

Registration confirmation

Thank you for signing up to our speed mentoring event at {venue} on {date}. Please let us know if need to cancel your place for any reason. We very much look forward to meeting you at the event.

Reminder 2 weeks before

Many thanks for registering to attend the speed mentoring event at {venue} on {date and time}. You currently have a confirmed place at the event. An agenda for the day will be sent out a few days before the event.

We understand that plans change, so if you can no longer attend please let us know by emailing {email address} so that we can free up a place for another delegate.

Otherwise, please assume your place is secured and we very much look forward to meeting you on the day.

Kind regards, {Event contact}

Reminder 1 week before with agenda

We are very much looking forward to meeting you at the speed mentoring event on {date/time}.

The event is at {venue}, directions can be found here {link to map}. If you're driving, the car parking arrangements are as follows: {details here}.

As mentioned previously we aim to get an equal number of mentors and those looking for mentors at the event to help the speed mentoring element of the day, therefore it would be extremely useful if you could let me know as soon as possible if you can no longer attend.

An agenda for the day is below. Please could we request that you arrive promptly so that we can have time to register everyone before the welcome.

- 10.00 Arrival and registration
- 10.30 Introduction and welcome
- 11.00 Speed mentoring activities
- 12.00 Lunch and open networking.
- 13.30 Close

It's a relaxed and informal event and our hope is that its energetic format will result in some useful contacts for your business. Please feel free to contact me by return email if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

{event contact}



Appendix 3 - The welcome presentation (template)

The presentation will be bespoke to your organisation and event, however a starting point in terms of structure is below. The mentoring resources still available on www.getmentoring.org could be a useful source of information if you want to develop the mentoring content in the presentation further.

Slide one	Overview
	Housekeeping
	Timings for the day / overview of what's planned
	Thank you for partners and collaborators
Slide two	The objectives
	The objectives for mentees
	To meet a number of potential mentors
	• To find out more about how mentoring can help them
	To learn more about how to link into mentoring in the region/sector
	The objectives for mentors
	To meet a number of potential mentees
	To learn more about the mentoring role
	• To learn more about how to link into mentoring in the region/sector
Slide Three	The mentoring role
	What is a mentor?
	A sounding board, a listener, an inspiration, a fresh pair of eyes, a supporter.
	A mentor shares their skills, knowledge and experience.
	What isn't a mentor?
	A consultant, a therapist, a business advisor, a trainer, a counsellor a coach.
	A mentor isn't there to provide the answers but to support the entrepreneur on their journey.
Slide Four	Expectations for the day
	To meet a number of new connections
	To meet one or two people to connect with after the event
	To learn more about mentoring
Slide Five	What will happen after today
	If you meet someone of interest - get in touch
	If it's appropriate, consider a mentoring relationship
	Use available resources to support your mentoring.
	Contact us if we can help.
Slide Six	The ground rules
	Please listen to the instructions provided to ensure you get the most out of the networking
	opportunities presented today
	Importance of being open minded and listening
	No need to rush as conversations can be followed up afterwards
	Only share information that you are happy to share
	Treat information shared in a confidential way
	Don't try to 'sell' your services as the focus today is on mentoring
	Have fun
The speed m	entoring - a 'Go' and 'Stop' slide to assist with the speed mentoring.
Slide Eight	The round up
	Congratulations on having met and exchanged contact information with so many people
	Information on how much time is now left for networking, lunch and refreshments
	Explanation of the tools that have been provided to help people connect with those they haven't
	met on the delegate list.
Slide Nine	And finally
-	A reminder about how to connect after the event
	A reminder of the role the organisation will play in supporting mentoring relationships after the
	event.
	Information on the feedback form that delegates will receive after the day.
	Encourage them to continue mentoring process

Appendix 4 - Mentoring record sheet (example)

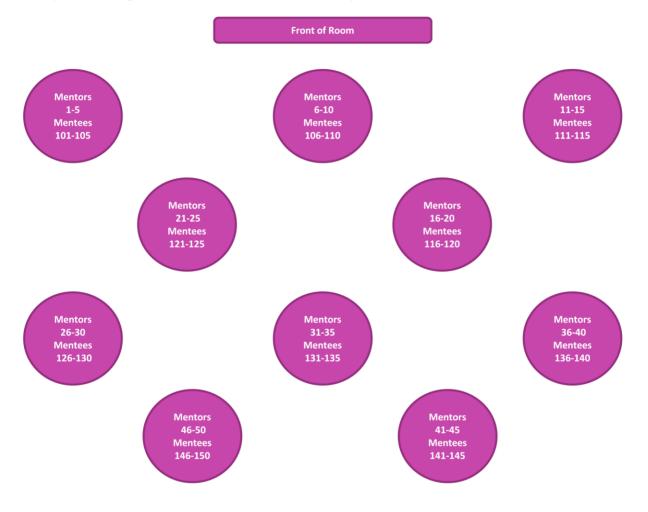
This can be an A4 sheet where delegates can make a note of their connections. It only needs to collect the name, delegate number and a small space for notes for 10 connections. They might only meet 6 during the speed mentoring, however it's useful to allow space for more connections made during the networking.

An image of a potential way to lay this out is as follows:

		No:
1	Notes	
	Name:	No:
2	Notes	
	Name:	No:
3	Notes	
	Name:	No:
4	Notes	
	Name:	No:
5	Notes	NOC
6	Name: Notes	No:
Ξ		
	Name: Notes	No:
7	Notes	
	Name:	
		No:
8	Notes	No:
8		No:
	Notes Name:	No:
8	Notes	
	Notes Name:	
9	Notes Name: Notes	
	Notes Name: Notes	No:

Appendix 5 - Table plan (sample)

Creating a table plan like this one below, allows delegates to have a 'home table' which they can return to during the freestyle networking so that others can find them more easily.





≋

5

#

 $\mathbf{\Delta}$

Appendix 6 - Feedback questionnaire (template)

You can adapt this questionnaire to suit your own organisation's objectives.

- 1. Did you attend the event as a mentor or mentee?
- 2. What were your main reason(s) for attending the event?
 - To find a potential mentor
 - To find a potential mentee
 - To learn more about mentoring
 - To share best practice
 - To meet some interesting new contacts
 - To gain new business
 - Other (please specify)
- 3. Were these objectives achieved?
- 4. How useful would you rate the communications you received prior to the event in providing an understanding of the what the event entailed?
 - Extremely useful*
 - Very useful
 - Moderately useful
 - Slightly useful
 - Not useful at all
 - Other (please specify)
 - *These options can be provided each time a question asks how useful an activity was
- 5. How many potential mentoring relationships did you form at the event?
- 6. How many of these potential mentoring relationships do you expect to have future contact with?
- 7. If you didn't meet a potential mentor or mentee, what are the reasons for this?
 - Didn't meet appropriate person
 - Didn't get chance to get to know anyone well enough
 - Not sector specific enough
 - Didn't meet enough people
 - It was not my main reason for attending
 - Other (please specify)
- 8. How many other new connections (not mentoring relationships) did you make at the event?
- 9. What type of other business connections did you form at the event? (please tick all that apply)
 - Peer support
 - Sharing of best practice
 - Mutual business interest
 - Potential investment
 - Other (please specify)
- 10. How useful did you find the 'Welcome' Presentation in preparing you for the event?
- 11. How useful did you find the facilitated speed mentoring session?
- 12. What are your thoughts on the amount of time that was given for each connection?
- 13. How useful did you find the Delegate List & Summary given out at the beginning of the event?
- 14. How useful was the time available for networking after the event?
- 15. What else could be provided to support the networking time?
- 16. In terms of your expectations was the event better than what you expected, worse than what you expected, or about what you expected?
- 17. Overall, how would you rate the event?
- 18. How would you rate the overall organisation of the event?
- 19. What did you like about most about the event?
- 20. What is the main thing could be changed to enhance its effectiveness at bringing mentors and businesses together?
- 21. How likely are you to recommend the event to a friend?
- 22. Do you have any further comments about the event?

