



PRESS RELEASE

March 2020

Lloyds Banking Group moves to support female entrepreneurs

Lloyds Banking Group (through Lloyds Bank and Bank of Scotland Brands) is delivering a national programme of events to help entrepreneurial women break down barriers they face when starting or growing their business.

Partnering with Google Digital Garage and mentoring organisation Be the Business, the Bank will deliver a number of free events in Glasgow, Manchester, London, Bristol and Birmingham over the course of 2020.

Ambitious about championing and leading on gender equality for small business, the Bank's aim is to help female entrepreneurs unlock their potential and promote a strong pipeline of female led businesses for the future.

The events are in response to the government's recent announcement to increase the number of female entrepreneurs by 50% by 2030, equivalent to nearly 600,000 additional female entrepreneurs. The events will be held across the UK in the run up to International Women's Day on Sunday, March 8.

Each city will host an inspirational female guest speaker, including Vanessa Vallely OBE, founder of the professional women's networking website WeAreTheCity, in London and Lyn Bromley, managing director of people development organisation First Impressions, in Birmingham.

They will share their business knowledge and expertise, alongside a workshop led by Google Digital Garage, with a focus on growing self-confidence and essential self-promotion skills. Each event will also feature a networking session to connect and collaborate with fellow delegates.

Angela Connolly, Head of Business Banking Direct at Lloyds Bank, said: "The UK is a brilliant country for anyone looking to start-up and grow their business. However, the gender disparity we currently see amongst entrepreneurs limits the UK's potential. Reports looking at the challenges facing female entrepreneurs show that there is a lack of local support for them, delivered in a way that is accessible and relatable. The events we have organised are designed to respond to that insight and have been deliberately spread across the UK to maximise our reach.



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“This is a great opportunity to network with like-minded individuals, grow connections and collaborate with organisations.

“The programme is designed to nurture entrepreneurs’ confidence and, crucially, their professional skillset, empowering women to grow their businesses. While these events are mainly aimed at female entrepreneurs, everyone is welcome.”

Vanessa Vallely OBE, Founder, WeAreTheCity, said: “When I started up my business, having a network to provide me with advice and support from those who had been in my shoes was incredibly helpful. It gave me the courage of my convictions and gave me the confidence to make my business a success knowing I had people around me who could help.

“That’s why I believe these networking events will be invaluable and I am thrilled to have been invited to share my own experiences with aspiring and established female entrepreneurs.”

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Notes to editors

Programme of events

Date	Venue	Guest speaker
2 March 2020	Lloyds Bank Glasgow Hub	Shona Murray, Managing Director, Local Lanarkshire Care
3 March 2020	Lloyds Bank Manchester Hub	Helen Wong MBE, lawyer, author and restaurateur
3 March 2020	Lloyds Bank, Gresham St, London	Vanessa Vallely OBE, Founder, WeAreTheCity
5 March 2020	Engine Shed, Bristol	Emma Clune, Founder, The Mustard Seeds
9 March 2020	Hippodrome, Birmingham	Lyn Bromley, Managing Director, First Impressions



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Spaces are limited and advance booking is recommended. To book a place at the events in Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester or London, visit [here](#). To book a place at the Glasgow event, visit [here](#). Alternatively, you can search Lloyds Bank/Bank of Scotland Yes Business Can events through their search engine or Yes Business Can directly into Eventbrite for each of the locations.

Supporting female entrepreneurs in Wales

- The Lloyds Banking Group Ambassador for Wales has been working with the Welsh Government and Business Wales to promote the 'Supporting Entrepreneurial Women in Wales' report and Best Practice Guide during 2019 and brought women and business support organisations across Wales together to network and make connections.
- We are continuing with our support for Welsh women in business this year through our collaboration with Tiny Rebel Brewery on an International Women's Day networking event planned for 9 March.

About Lloyds Bank

- Lloyds Banking Group provides comprehensive expert financial services for start-ups, small businesses, mid-sized businesses and multinational corporations.
- Maintaining a network of relationship teams across the UK, as well as internationally, Lloyds Banking Group delivers the mix of local understanding and global expertise necessary to provide long-term support to its clients.
- Lloyds Banking Group offers a broad range of solutions to support small businesses including day to day banking, working capital solutions, and lending

Promoting gender equality at Lloyds Banking Group

- Lloyds Banking Group's 'Women in Leadership' programme for middle management women has resulted in 25% of programme participants achieving a promotion.
- Its sponsorship programme for women and BAME colleagues, launched in 2018, has resulted in in colleagues progressing five times faster than those without a sponsor.
- It is a founding member of the Women in Finance Charter and has been a 'Times Top 50 employer' since 2011.
- Its Returners programme specifically targets professional women (and men) who have been on a career break of at least two years, and has resulted in professional internship placements for over 90 talented women since 2016.