



Supporting
entrepreneurs and
innovators in the
heart of Aberdeenshire

LINA

LIBRARIES INNOVATION NETWORK ABERDEENSHIRE



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Lockdown 2020

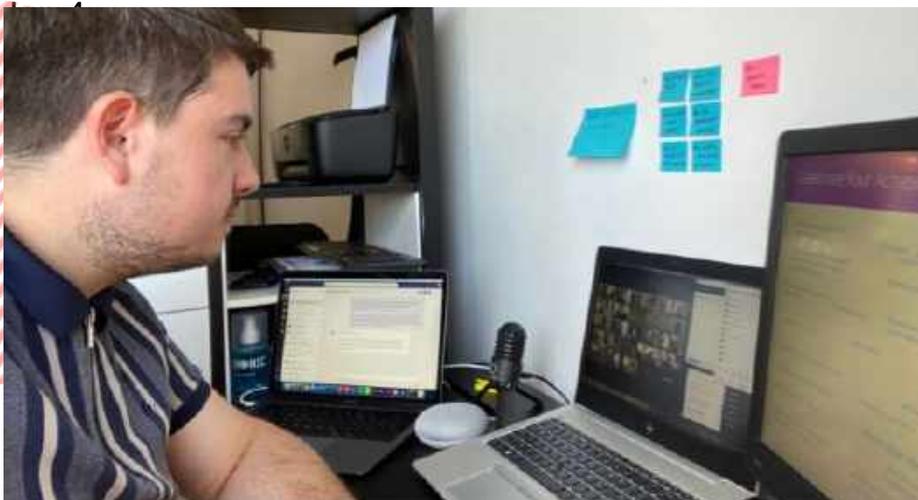
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Above: Edward Pollock (EIG) delivering online programmes

Innovating in Lockdown

In February the LINA one-day workshops began in the Fraserburgh and Macduff areas with plans to run a programme of workshops in many of the smaller libraries. Between February and early March, four workshops were held at Macduff, Turriff, Strichen and New Pitsligo. These were attended by 21 people, some with existing businesses and others with plans to start a business.

In response to national COVID-19 lockdown measures, LINA demonstrated its adaptability by moving the LINA Accelerator online and repurposing the one-day workshop in to a self-learn, self-paced course. Local entrepreneurs and business owners also showed their resilience in this difficult period by putting aside time to participate in the LINA programmes even with other competing demands.

For participants who had attended the one-day workshops in Banff and Peterhead and wanted to develop their business ideas further, the LINA Accelerator provides a set of six workshops taking place monthly. Using RGU's online delivery platform Campusmoodle and virtual classroom; Blackboard Collaborate, it was possible to take these sessions online without changing the schedule.



Above: Strichen Workshop

LINA ONLINE

The COVID Lockdown placed many restrictions on people and changed their circumstances hugely. Not only was travel restricted but time was too with many people finding themselves home-schooling and dealing with managing life in new ways. To provide the maximum flexibility the LINA team decided to develop a self-paced digital pack with presentations and workbooks for those interested in starting or developing their business.

When someone signs-up to LINA online they receive a link to the materials and an invitation to attend a video session with a Programme Coordinator who will provide more information and support around the programme. Once they complete the pack they receive a digital certificate.

The second LINA Accelerator cohort was due to start in May following the completion of the Fraserburgh and Macduff one-day sessions. The start date was pushed back to June 4th and everyone who had completed the four workshops and the LINA ONLINE materials were invited to join.

FAQ in the spotlight

'Do I need a business bank account?'

You **NEED** a business bank account if your business is set up as a limited company in the uk. This is because your business is legally separate from you personally.

You don't **NEED** a business bank account if you are a sole trader, freelancer, gig worker or contractor (as long as it's not through a limited company).

Tip – if you're offsetting business finances against your income, you would be best getting a business bank account.

Source: Money Saving Expert 2020

TOP TIPS FOR COPING WITH LOCKDOWN

Dad of two and Programme Coordinator for Banff & Macduff shares his top tips for keeping sane during lockdown: "Make sure your exercise is fun! create challenges and allow yourself some quiet time to relax and gather your thoughts. Make use of all the free TV resources like Joe Wicks PE or BBC Bitesize lessons."



Candace, Programme Coordinator for Peterhead & Fraserburgh says: "As we can't go out as much, I've been finding this the perfect time to make future plans. I know I won't always get this time to spend with my family, so I'm determined to make the most of it!"

Say hello!



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