

1/3

feel they lack expertise in key areas



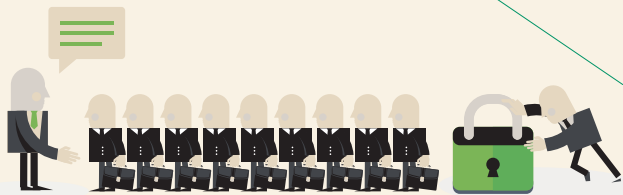
9%

said a lack of business mentoring is a threat to the growth of their company



1 in 10

believe a lack of management expertise is a significant barrier to growth



TRAINING RESOURCES



39% 27% 14%

are most likely to focus their training resources on skilled staff

only plan to train and develop semi-skilled staff

plan to train and develop low-skilled and low paid staff

SME APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES



1 in 3 12% 23%

businesses are looking to increase their overall headcount

of SMEs have an apprentice scheme in place

of SMEs are considering launching an apprentice scheme

SMES KEY BENEFITS OF APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES



49% 38% 44% 15%

reduced staff costs

believe tax incentives appear to be boosting uptake for the scheme

see it as a chance to show their corporate social responsibility

believe it reduces staff turnover and creates career opportunities

FUTURE TAKE-UP OF APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES



14% of SMEs would be more likely to take on an as a result of the governments relief on National Insurance contributions for employees under 21.

This rises to 34% for SMEs with more than 50 employees