

## Get on board for business advice

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By Chris Holland »

A new scheme to offer owners and managers of small firms access to board level advice is being launched in Bradford.

It will be led locally by a former Bingley Grammar School teacher who later moved into business.

Nick Howcroft, who lives in Bingley, will be the Bradford facilitator for The Alternative Board (TAB), which is based on a concept popular in the United States for about 20 years.

The operation is being launched at tomorrow's Yorkshire International Business Convention in Harrogate.

In the US and Canada TAB has worked with more than 5,000 business owners to help them achieve their goals and improve the performance of their businesses.

Jason Zickerman, international president, said: "Coming to Bradford was no accident. We believe that the area offers tremendous opportunities for us to help local entrepreneurs develop and grow their businesses.

"The Alternative Board gives subscribing firms support from local peer advisory boards which meet monthly. Board members are all carefully vetted and selected from similar size companies and have a range of different skills and experience.

"Many small firm bosses can often feel isolated and sometimes be overwhelmed by the challenges they face and often focus on nothing else but work. By providing access to experienced business peers who can offer an objective external view of their business, we can help them take advantage of opportunities, meet challenges and also enjoy a better life-work balance."

Nick Howcroft said the ideal number of small firms served by alternative boards was between five and ten. He was in the process of recruiting board members and looking for firms that could benefit from board level advice, along with coaching that was also available from TAB.