

Mentoring and Networking Event

Thursday 16th July 2026

Overview of the day

Welcome to a collection of experiences, ideas, and opportunities. This book is a starting point and an invitation to connect. Each profile represents someone open to sharing, learning, and developing with you. Take a moment to explore the people around you and their journeys, what they can offer, and what they're looking for. You may find common ground, fresh insight, and the encouragement to take your next step. As you read through look for people who inspire you, challenge your thinking, or help you see what could be next.

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WOMEN EMPOWERED

Women Empowered are an internal colleague-led resource group of women who are passionate about creating an inclusive workplace where everyone feels they belong and can reach their full potential. Specifically Women Empowered focus on understanding and enhancing the workplace experience for Group 1 women.

Women Empowered are proud to support spaces where women can connect, grow, and realise their potential.

We are here to open doors, build confidence and create opportunities for women to thrive. We want every Group 1 woman to feel supported, valued, at home and confident in the bright future ahead of her here.

THRIVE

SUPPORT

We recognise both the challenges women may face and the achievements they bring, and we are committed to championing and uplifting one another.

We hope this event leaves you feeling encouraged, inspired, and ready to lift others as you continue your own journey.

GROW

Event Agenda

START

Welcome Activities: Arrive, connect and get started

Join us from 09:45 to ease into the day, meet fellow guests, and take part in a few light, confidence-building activities. These are designed to help you reflect on your strengths, consider what you'd like from the day, and start making meaningful connections from the moment you arrive.

Welcome Notes: Setting the tone

Hear from one of our senior leaders as we open the event and set the tone for the day ahead. This is your invitation to step into the experience with curiosity, confidence, and an openness to connect.

Panel Discussion: Real stories and applied insights

Hear from Group 1 women as they share their experiences, lessons, and personal approaches to career growth. Through a series of relaxed, fireside-style conversations, you'll gain insight, challenge your thinking, and reflect on what might be possible for you. You'll also have the chance to join the conversation through interactive questions.

Energiser: From thinking to doing

A short, focused activity designed to shift your mindset from reflection into action. You'll explore how to communicate with clarity and confidence, helping you make the most of every interaction.

Networking: Keep the conversations going

Throughout the event, you'll have opportunities to connect with others. Take the time to introduce yourself, share your experiences, and explore opportunities to connect.

Action Planning: Make it happen

Turn your ideas into action. You'll define your next step and commit to it.

Reflection: Looking ahead with confidence

Take a moment to pause and reflect on what you've heard so far. Through a guided exercise, you'll connect with your future self and build confidence in your strengths and the direction you're heading in.

FINISH

Closing Comments: Taking It Forward

We'll bring the event to a close with a look ahead. We'll reinforce the opportunities in front of you and encourage you to continue building connections and supporting one another beyond today.

Activity: Build your mentor map

This is your time to turn insights into something practical. You'll create your own mentor map; you'll identify where you want to grow, who can support you, and how you can support others. Working through clear themes and finishing with a paired discussion, you'll build both your plan and your confidence to reach out and connect.

Leading the Conversation...



Emma Marsh

Senior Strategic People
Business Partner

Elle Gates

ER and People Advice
Manager

Katie Martin

Customer Experience
Director

An opportunity to hear from Group 1 women on their career stories, what has helped and hindered, and their personal approach throughout it all. This is a series of three 10-minute panel discussions hosted by members of the Women Empowered group and People team. The topics are designed to encourage you to find the right path that suits you and to be intentional about the support your need.

Follow the QR code to a Slido which will help you interact with the discussion.



Danielle Tomlinson
Sales Executive
Toyota Maidstone

Speaking About:

Taking your career into your own hands

With:

Emma Marsh, Senior Strategic People
Business Partner & Panel Facilitator



Nathalee Burton
Assistant Service Manager
Audi Watford

Speaking About:

The people who support you

With:

Elle Gates, ER and People Advice Manager
& Panel Facilitator



Tessa Burgoyne
Senior Strategic People Business Partner
Field

Speaking About:

Squiggly careers and the different routes to success

With:

Katie Martin, Customer Experience Director & Panel
Facilitator

...and Expanding the Dialogue

Who's in the Room

Skills to Build

Building confidence

Career transitions

Developing a professional network

Expanding my network

Finding a mentor

Making best use of my time

Professional social media use

Skills to Share

Project delivery

Public speaking

Stakeholder management

Strategic leadership

Team management

Technical skills



Alex Smith
Service Advisor | Skoda Southend
Email or phone

Career Highlights
Completing my Service Advisor accreditation with 100%-I have never achieved 100% in anything I have done!

I can help with
I have been in the motor trade since leaving school in 2017 across a few brands-I started off as an apprentice in Parts, so would be happy to share my development experience.

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Chantelle Reichmann
New Car Sales Manager | Ford Farnborough
Email

Career Highlights
Being noticed for 2 promotions and winning an award for Group 1 with Ford UK.

I can help with
Confidence within my role against other sales managers.



Charlotte Crossley
People Business Partner | Field
Email Phone or Teams

Career Highlights
Progressing from HR Admin to People Business Partner and completing my Master's in HR Management.

I can help with
Best practice for people management.



Charlie Haxton
Sales Admin Manager | BMW Bedford
Email, Phone, Teams or Zoom

Career Highlights
Promoted to my current role in 2021

I can help with
I think I am very good at listening and being objective, I can usually see things from lots of different angles and help someone talk things through. I'm never judgemental and strongly believe if you are doing your absolute best then that is enough, everyone is on their own journey.



Ellie Emery
Implementation Lead | Contact Centre
Email Phone or Teams

Career Highlights
Years of management experience within the banking sector before joining Group 1. Progressed from Sales Administrator to F&I Support. Took a leap into the newly centralised Retention Team. Advanced from Team Leader to Senior Team Leader and now Group Retention Manager.

I can help with
Sales Retention, Communication and People Management.



Elle Gates
ER and People Advice Manager | Field
Email Phone or Teams

Career Highlights
My career journey from front of house reception to senior roles.

I can help with
Managing difficult conversations, how to give and receive feedback, questioning skills and techniques, how to effectively utilise Co Pilot, being a sounding board and providing counsel.



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Emily Dowds
Head of Property & Estates | MK Head Office
 Email or phone

Career Highlights
 Becoming a chartered surveyor

I can help with
 Property, strategic commercial objectives, contract management, project management.



Emma Bennett
IT Systems Accountant | MK Head Office
 Email or Teams

Career Highlights
 I am involved with the DMS harmonisation project moving from the rev8 software to drive. Our team have successfully moved all of the ex-Inchcape environments onto the Group 1 environments.

I can help with
 I work daily on issues logged on helpdesk tickets for the DMS system.



Evie Campbell
Service Advisor | VW/Skoda Colchester
 Email

Career Highlights
 Becoming an accredited Service Advisor. Highlights will always been positive feedback from customers and managers.

I can help with
 Customer satisfaction. Time management and organisation. Upselling.



Jas Kooner
Property Accountant | MK Head Office
 Email Phone or Teams

Career Highlights
 Accountant to Head Office Finance Systems & Process Accountant. Led process standardisation and systems improvement projects that delivered cost savings, efficiencies and enhanced reporting. Recognised for strong leadership, award-winning performance and a commitment to improving finance systems, controls and stakeholder relationships.

I can help with
 All areas of Finance.



Emma Marsh
Senior Strategic People Business Partner | MK Head Office
 Email Phone or Teams

Career Highlights
 Progressing from HR Advisor to HR Manager to Senior People Business Partner. Supporting and encouraging Managers in their personal development and career progression

I can help with
 People management and health and wellbeing.



Eszter Dalnoki-Nagy
Head of Digital Products | Coventry
 Email or Teams

Career Highlights
 Head of Digital Products at Group 1 Automotive UK, leading digital platform strategy and delivery. Built and developed a high-performing cross-functional team while championing inclusive leadership. Driving AI adoption, digital innovation and measurable improvements.

I can help with
 Digital, Digital Transformation, Agile Working, Coaching & Mentoring, Team development.



Kerry Barber
Head of Fleet Toyota/Lexus
 Field
 Email, Phone or Teams

Career Highlights
 I joined as a Multi-Brand Key Account Manager in August and I was appointed permanent Head of Fleet in April after embracing the challenge and making a broader impact across the business.

I can help with
 Fleet, building relationships, networking, events, LinkedIn, Certified Carbon Literate.



Kimberley Kirk
Sales Executive | Toyota Derby
 Email or Teams

Career Highlights
 Hit my biggest month with 32 cars dealt and delivered.

I can help with
 I'm organised and good at multi-tasking.





Laura Burns
Senior Strategic People Business
Partner I Field
Email, Phone, Teams or linkedin

I can help with

Working through imposter syndrome, building relationships quickly, supporting others to see and use their strengths.

An insight I'd share with my younger self:

Don't underestimate yourself or what you can achieve - little steps each day make for a lot of progress!



Laura Tuckey
Executive I Contact Centre
Email or Phone

Career Highlights

I was chosen to do retention from my team, and Audi Watford asked me personally to do some appointments for them.

I can help with

Confidence and objection handling.



Louise Curtis
People Services Admin and Onboarding
Manager I MK Head Office
Email, Phone or Teams

Career Highlights

Studying towards my Level 5 CIPD and being seconded to a manager position.

I can help with

An area of knowledge, skill, or experience that I am happy to share is around People administration, including recruitment processes, colleague records management, onboarding, and supporting colleagues with policies and procedures.



Natasha Denney
Deputy Team Leader Order To Cash
Maidstone First Point
Email or Phone

Career Highlights

I have run Exhibitions and Conferences in my Career.

An insight I'd share with my younger self:

You can do it if you put your mind to it.



Leona Bursnell
Divisional Retention Lead Mercedes-Benz Norwich
Email, Phone or Teams

Career Highlights

Progressed from Sales Executive, to steering the customer loyalty programme across 140 dealerships. Managing customer retention across all 19 Mercedes-Benz stores. Selected for the L5 Women in Leadership apprenticeship.

I can help with

Sales, Finance, Customer Retention, working part time and how this can work. All things women in the workplace!



Louisa Hillaby
Learning & Development
Specialist I MK Head Office
Email or Teams

I can help with

Facilitation and training delivery, Effective communication and confidence in presentation skills, Customer service excellence, Leading workshops and group discussions, Aftersales operations and best practices, Managing customer expectations, Performance management and KPI development.



Olivia Lapper
Accounts Apprentice
Maidstone First Point
Email or Teams

Career Highlights

My biggest career highlight would be recently being added to be the OTC Team member within in a project.

I can help with

My role within the OTC team as an accounts apprentice and the roles and responsibilities I carry out, and helping with processes which I use myself.



Sherrie Eldridge
Senior Autoline Support Analyst
Remote
Email, Phone or Teams

Career Highlights

Nominated for unsung hero for the women in motor industry awards.

I can help with

All things DMS related (Kerridge/Autoline/ Autoline Drive) predominantly aftersales; Point of sale, Stock Management, Workshop loading, Stock checking and Purchase Control.





Sian Evans
Service Advisor | Toyota Derby
 Email, Phone, Teams or Whatsapp

Career Highlights

Progressed from Star Expert to Customer Experience Expert, Sales Executive and Service Advisor across Mercedes-Benz and Toyota dealerships. Recognised for delivering excellent customer experiences, receiving outstanding feedback across multiple channels.

I can help with

Creating the best customer experience even with little ideas and also positive wording.



Steph Macdonald
Group Marketing Manager | Field
 Email, Phone or Teams

Career Highlights

Progressed from Corporate Assistant to Head of Marketing, a career highlight at Group 1. Achieved CIM Level 6 and played a key role in the Inchcape acquisition and integration. Built strong relationships across the business while leading through growth and change.

I can help with

Marketing, management, leadership.



Tara Barnes
Social Media & Visual
Merchandiser | Nottingham
 Email

Career Highlights

When I worked in the service department, my Admin job role was used as a demonstration to all Mercedes-Benz dealerships.

I can help with

I can do service Admin, Sales Admin, and help with adverts on Autotrader.



Vicky Hockley
Talent Specialist | MK Head Office
 Email, Phone or Teams

Career Highlights

Embraced challenging projects that provided learning opportunities and supported my personal growth. Trusted with key responsibilities, helping to build confidence, adaptability and a proactive approach to delivering results. Being given ownership of projects has enabled me to grow professionally, take initiative, and contribute in a more impactful way.

I can help with

Customer journeys, the importance of providing a positive experience, and recruiting strategies.



Discover more about our panel speakers and the professionals in the room by scanning the QR code.

Keep the Mentoring going

Meaningful mentoring doesn't end here. This is just the beginning. Here are a few simple ways to keep the energy, support and learning alive.



One conversation can spark a new direction. **Keep going.**

1

Act within 72 hours

Turn intention into action while it's fresh. Reconnect with your accountability partner within 72 hours to share progress on your next step.

2

Follow up on the conversations that mattered

Think back to the people you connected with. Who sparked your interest, challenged your thinking, or encouraged you? Reach out, continue the conversation, and build on that connection.

3

Use your mentor map

Your mentor map is a living tool. Revisit it regularly to reflect on who can support you in different ways, whether as a mentor, sounding board, or peer. Also think about where you can offer support in return.

4

Keep it simple and consistent

Mentoring doesn't need to be formal to be effective. A short check-in, a shared idea, or a quick message can maintain momentum and strengthen relationships over time.

5

Lift as you grow

As you gain insight, confidence and experience, look for opportunities to support others too. Small acts of encouragement and knowledge-sharing help create a stronger, more connected community for everyone.



Your mentor
Network