

John O'Brien BA (Hons), MBA, Fellow ILM

Career Outline

Consultant with 20 years experience in UK and international skills, management and enterprise development at policy and practice levels.

Current Role

DEAL Group Principal (2005 – present)

Responsibilities Providing consulting services for business and public sector clients.

Key Skills Strategic enterprise development – private and public sector. HR development. Market research and evaluations.

Previous Experience

Director of Programmes, Policy and International Development, Durham Business School (2002 – 2007)

Achievements Led large and commercially successful team in a range of UK and international development projects including: - Programme Director for Public Administration Reform contract for Russian Federation civil servants; Project Manager for County Durham Extending Reach project developing on-line Managed Learning Environment for management development programmes.

Enterprise Development Adviser – Department For International Development (1999 – 2002)

Achievements Deployed on various projects including strategic review of private sector development and public/private partnership arrangements in St Helena and subsequently as Agency Manager St Helena Development Agency.

Chief Executive Business Link Cumbria/Senior Management Team

Cumbria Training and Enterprise Council (1993 – 1998)

Achievements As first Chief Executive of Business Link Cumbria (1995 – 1998) led the development of the Business Link partnership and service in the county and represented the NW region nationally on the Forum of BL CEOs. Also IIP assessor/advisor and Manager of Cumbria MCI network.

Director Business Training Cumbria/ Training Manager Furness

Business Initiative (1987 – 1993)

Achievements Managed the growth and development of what became the largest provider of business training to SMEs in Cumbria.

Education

MBA Open University (1991 – 1994)

PG Dip Personnel Management, RGU (1985-1986)

BA (Hons) Historical Studies (1981-1984)