



SUPPORTING YOUR CHOICE

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2016



OLYMPIC STAR



One of the individuals we support, Rose, with her Bronze medal: qualifying her for the 2017 National Championships. Rose regularly competes as a boccia player for her local club The Bidston Bullets in Wirral which competes in The National Pan Disability League.

SKILLS CENTRES

Over the past 12 months we have been increasing our Skills and Training Centres across the regions we work to promote employability and life skills, increase confidence and provide an opportunity for people to gain certified qualifications.

Linked to our day opportunities and community services provision, programmes and courses on offer are based on ability. One of the programmes we adopt is ASDAN: designed to develop personal, transferable and employability skills. The Centres are developed via a curriculum of activities aimed at each person's skill level.

Hayley is completing an ASDAN module in the subject of 'Business Enterprise' at our day opportunities service in Conwy, North Wales. Initially she had confidence issues regarding her ability, so staff and Hayley set realistic targets with key assigned tasks. She has met all targets and her confidence has increased. She now works supporting client and fundraising events and is looking for further voluntary work.

"Courses reward small steps of achievement regularly and progressively, with recognition of achievement highlighted at each session."



POTENS LAUNCH CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Potens launched its first dedicated children's services at the end of 2015 and over the next 6 months will be developing this specialist provision Nationally in response to local demand for flexible and creative approaches to young people's support.

Each of the new services have been designed to operate around children and young people's needs, and provide flexible and creative approaches to each young person's support.

Daun Tattersall, Regional Director South, explains: "Our aim is to develop services which link into the already existing networks of support around the children to ensure we have continuity in approach and support. The key is to learn and listen to each other to achieve the best outcomes for the young people."

"We recognise that not one size fits all, and aim to find solutions that support young people and their families by providing opportunities which work for them."

Services include a mix of small residential provision, short break and respite residential, including day provision. This also includes after school and holiday clubs. All services are designed to be forward thinking and aimed at young people ages 11-18 with learning disabilities and complex behavioural needs.

"Our aim is to find solutions that fit young people and their families, actively responding to local need with specialist support"

Our ethos is based upon a 'can do' culture which promotes a person centred approach and commitment to driving forward positive outcomes for young people. Our aim is to enable them to lead a life which makes sense to them in preparation for adulthood.

For further information contact the team via email at: opportunities@potens-uk.com

REFERRALS AND VACANCIES

If you would like to make a referral or view our current vacancies across all provision please get in touch with one of the team via email: referrals@potens-uk.com

We also work with commissioners and housing partners to develop bespoke services in line with local need. For more details contact our Development Team via email: opportunities@potens-uk.com

We send out weekly Occupancy Vacancy Reports, with details of all services. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please contact the team via email: opportunities@potens-uk.com

BEST CARE WORKER 2016 AWARD

Huge congratulations to Potens' Support Worker, Justyna Karbowska, who was named Care Home Worker of the Year at the Towergate Care Award 2016 finals in recognition of the 'dedication, commitment and loyalty' she has given to the individuals she supports in Wallasey, Merseyside.

Justyna was shortlisted from 300 other care workers across the UK as one of the three finalists in the category of Care Worker of the Year: going on to win the award.

The team provide intensive support to three individuals who have learning disabilities and complex health needs in Wallasey, Merseyside. Like all Potens' services, the team there takes a person centred approach; encouraging independence for each person and focussing on outcomes for each individual supported.

Dave Andrews, Potens' Area Manager says "Justyna has a fantastic connection with the other staff, is very supportive and always goes that extra mile. We are delighted that Justyna has been recognised for the fantastic work she has completed over the past 12 months at the service - working with individuals in Wirral to increase opportunities and outcomes."



"Lisa specialises in Autism and Positive Behavioural Support Provision"

NEW DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Welcome to Lisa Alcorn who joined Potens in February as Director of Operations. Lisa specialised in Autism and Positive Behaviour Support over 20 years ago and has experience of managing residential, supported living and short breaks services across both autism specialist and learning disability services.

In her previous roles, Lisa has been Head of Children's Services for an autism specialist provider and more recently as Head of Complex Needs undertaking a national role in designing and implementing positive behaviour support policies and practices.

Lisa has also developed an innovative Autism Practice Framework and is regularly involved in workforce development to disseminate positive autism practice.

Lisa was commended for her work in PBS at the BILD International Leadership Awards in 2014 for her contribution to innovative practices for young people, and is soon to complete a Doctorate.

On joining Potens Lisa said, "I am very excited to join the Potens team. They are committed to developing Positive Behaviour Support and Autism services which we can proactively develop together."

Lisa is keen to develop a Complex Needs Practice Framework which will incorporate all of Potens specialisms and will directly support Local Authorities in developing their capacity for people with more complex and challenging needs.

NEW AQUISITIONS

Over the past 12 months Potens has expanded its operations in South West England, North West England and Yorkshire with the acquisition of four companies. These well-established quality services include: Olive Tree based in Blackburn and Supported Lives Service based in Bradford - both domiciliary care agencies; Devon based BeSmart which is a specialist residential services; and Good Days - a day opportunities provision based in Sheffield.



Spotlight on Larwood

In addition we have launched and developed a number of new services in response to local demand. One of these is Larwood in Nottingham - a residential service which supports people with learning disabilities and complex needs. The team offer individual packages of care to build confidence, develop daily living skills and support to achieve outcomes.

Having only been operational for 6 weeks, CQC visited the service in December. Whilst recognising that the service was in its infancy, the inspector could not help but be impressed with the environment, as well as the outcomes that staff and residents were experiencing already. Positive comments included:

CQC Inspector: "Continue on the path you have begun and my next inspection will show 'Outstanding!'"

Family member: "He (relative) has more choice here. They listen to him. They are fantastic. Very Caring".

Linked professional: "Staff are very professional and efficient in all aspects of their work".

Family member: "He (Registered Manager) has done what he promised to do. I have faith in him".

WELCOME

As Chief Operating Officer at Potens, I hope you have enjoyed our first newsletter which is aimed at our commissioning, health and social care partners across The UK.

The past 12 months have been a busy time, with a number of new organisations joining the Potens Group, increasing our specialist provision and expertise across the UK.

Our newsletter is a platform to keep you updated with news from across the Group and to hear about the fantastic work being delivered by our growing team.

A new path for us has seen us enter our staff and services in a number of prestigious National Awards this year.

This has included Potens being named as a finalists in the Health Investor Awards 2016 and two of our Managers being named as finalists in the National Learning Disability and Autism Awards 2016.

Please stay tuned for further developments and good news stories in future editions, as well as via our website at www.potens-uk.com and our social media platforms as detailed below.

Best wishes,

Nicki Stadames,
Chief Operating Officer.