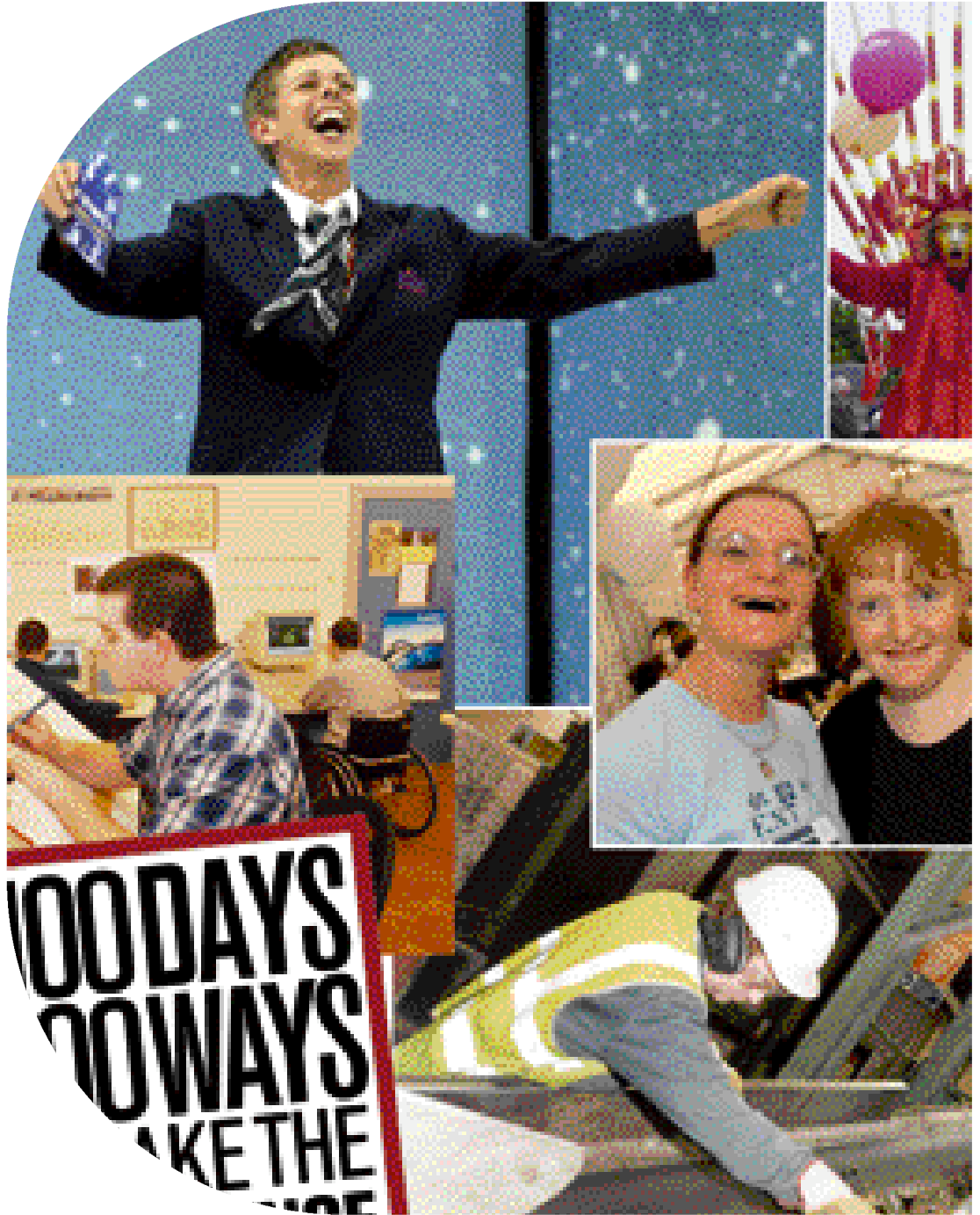




**Chairman Joe Treacy's report to the Rehab Group AGM highlighted another successful year for the organisation, despite the challenges faced on a number of important fronts.**



**WOOD DAYS  
DOWNWAYS  
MAKE THE  
SIDE**

**report**

## Solid progress in 2003

**2**003 was a year of very solid progress for Rehab group. At year-end more than 12,500 clients accessed our services in over 180 locations throughout Ireland and the UK. In Ireland

our health and social care division continued to expand its existing programmes and also developed a number of new and innovative services. In addition, while significant gaps still exist, we have seen some progress by the Department of Health and Children in the bridging of the long-



standing funding gap in our core services. Our training division in Ireland had a successful operational year with a high level of certification and records of achievement being attained despite difficulties from the failure of our funders to grant fee increases.

Whilst 2003 was also a challenging year in financial terms for our employment division in Ireland, it has now been restructured away from some of the more traditional manufacturing areas and we hope this will prove beneficial in the long term. We are also hopeful that in 2004 the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will conclude its review of the current programme under which we operate to allow us

to maximise the full potential of our successful integrated employment model. The re-organisation of our brain injury services in England reduced the gap between State funding and the cost of these services significantly and it is our intention that once sustainable funding can be secured, these services will be able to plan for the long-term.

Our English training division increased its market share in 2003, with the number of independent providers falling by 20 per cent in the year. Our programmes for long-term unemployed adults and young people aged 16-24, who enter our service with no qualifications or experience of work, were par-

6 **Our English training division increased its market share in 2003, with the number of independent providers falling by 20 per cent in the year** 9

ticularly successful. Meanwhile, our Scottish organisation has completed a programme of re-organisation culminating in a name change and now looks forward to a period of expansion. In January 2004 it acquired a new care division and sees further opportunities for strategic alliances and partnerships in the coming months.

Having joined the Group in 2002, the Chaseley Trust has continued to strengthen its position as a leading residential care provider for people with specific disabilities. We are currently in discussion with other organisations in the south east of England and there is now the exciting prospect of growing a significant health and social care division in the UK.

Despite some difficulties and restructuring within our commercial activities in Ireland, the Group has shown a surplus of €1.8m. The recovery of a large ESF debtor and net capital expenditure of €3.9m meant a reduction in the Group's net borrowings in the current year. A significant achievement during the year was the Group's contribution to Ireland's Disability Legislation Consultation Group.

The Rehab Group firmly believes that the expected Disability Bill should be rights based in order to ensure true equality of opportunity for people with disabilities."