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Momentum acquires PI Care

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Ian Welsh, CEO

Momentum’s on the move following the acquisition of PI Care as part of a strategic expansion into the care sector in Scotland.

Momentum has announced the acquisition of the care organisation – PI Care, a move which sees the organisation increase its workforce by 70% and further grow its role in the Scottish care sector.

PI Care provides a range of care services, including full 24-hour support. Its client group is varied and includes people with physical disabilities; elderly people; people with HIV related difficulties, those who have sustained head injuries and terminal cancer patients who wish to remain in their own homes.

According to Ian Welsh, chief executive of Momentum, the acquisition of PI Care forms part of a strategic expansion of Momentum as

they become a more significant deliverer of services to disabled and excluded people in Scotland.

“Momentum’s move into care and supported living is an example of how the Scottish social economy is growing through the provision of local services; the development of training opportunities for excluded groups; and the creation of local employment opportunities.”

Momentum is also currently in the advanced stages of discussion regarding the acquisition of another Scottish social enterprise firm. This comes at a key time in the development of the social economy sector following the Scottish Executive’s Review of the Social Economy in Scotland, which resulted in the Executive pledging to encourage the growth and sustainability of social economy organisations.



Roddy Robertson: "The Council's aim is to complement existing local service user groups."

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Momentum launches National Clients' Council

Comprising 14 members, on a 50:50 staff to client ratio, the Council is the next step in developing and improving service user representation and is chaired by former Momentum client Roddy Robertson

A landmark event took place at Momentum's Head Office in December with the inaugural meeting of the organisation's National Clients' Council.

Over the last six years, Momentum has worked inclusively with service users to make sure they are represented at all levels of the organisation, contributing to service design, planning, development, monitoring and evaluation.

The formation of Momentum's National Clients' Council in 2003 complements the Clients' Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, launched the previous year by Minister for Health and Community Care, Malcolm Chisholm MSP.

Comprising 14 members, on a 50:50 staff to client ratio, the Council is the next step in developing and improving service user representation and is chaired by former Momentum client Roddy Robertson, with an independent consultant to advise on terms of reference.

A clear agenda is set for each meeting and minutes are available and accessible to all staff and service users.

Roddy, who became a Momentum client following a brain haemorrhage, now works full time as project co-ordinator with the Glasgow Playschemes Association.

Like many clients, he has the skills and commitment to make a valuable contribution to Momentum through the Council.

Roddy said: "The Council's aim is to complement existing local service user groups and to extend that representation and development nationally among all Momentum services.

"We believe the formation of the Council is a valuable method of ensuring that the people using Momentum's programmes have the opportunity to take part in making decisions about their needs and shaping future development."

Momentum's director of service development, Lesley Kragt, said: "We strive to ensure that service user representation is embedded in all our activities and we believe that the combination of the National Clients' Council and the Clients' Charter is a public and accountable way of doing this."



Toss em high! Lord Morris of Manchester gets in some practice.

Parliamentary pancake cliffhanger!

Government confronts strong opposition on the lawns of Westminster

uk news



Winners: Rt Hon Joyce Quinn MP; Lindsay Hoyle MP and Jim Dobbins MP



Rt Hon Anne Begg MP gets in some practice prior to the race.

Forget about this year's Olympic Games in Athens or the European Soccer Championships in Portugal, as far as MPs and members of the House of Lords are concerned, the only sporting occasion of note this year was Rehab UK's Parliamentary Pancake Race which was held on the lawns outside the Houses of Parliament on Shrove Tuesday.

There was much tension and anticipation as the 13 competitors representing both Houses of Parliament donned their tall chef hats and white aprons, and practised some last minute pancake tosses.

Rehab UK's chairman, George Wilson, had the unenviable task of ensuring that the race rules were strictly observed during the event, including the number of times each pancake should be tossed during the 50 yard dash to the finish.

The extremely competitive race ended in a dead heat, with the trophy being awarded to the team led by the Labour MP, Lindsay Hoyle, and included Joyce Quinn MP, and Jim Dobbins MP.



Sue Gidman: responsible for TBG Learning's e2e initiative.



A group of e2e learners at TBG Learning's centre in South London

TBG Learning leads the way in e2e initiative

UK NEWS

A new learning initiative which is being offered by TBG Learning, Rehab Group's UK training organisation, is leading the way in assisting many disadvantaged young people in developing new skills and in entering employment.

TBG has been granted the contract to run the UK Government's e2e initiative in the London borough of Lambeth. The programme is also being run at TBG Learning Essex, based in Colchester and Clacton and at TBG Learning Barking.

"We're thrilled at being chosen and entrusted to meet this new challenge", said Sue Gidman, who is responsible for TBG's e2e initiative.

TBG Learning's work with Lambeth's youngsters on the e2e programme is being undertaken at the South London Centre in Brixton. In Lambeth alone, over 1000 young people who are not currently in education, employment or training have

been identified as being in need of support, but it is believed that there are many more.

The e2e initiative replaces the government's Life Skills Programme, which was very successful in helping some of Britain's most disadvantaged young people who, through leaving school with few or no qualifications, or not having English as a first language, often faced poor job prospects.

E2e builds on the success of the Life Skills Programme, which TBG had run for two years. It is designed to meet each individual learner's needs, from essential skills, such as literacy, numeracy and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), through to a range of vocational skills and qualifications in the areas of retail, administration and hospitality, and catering along with employment skills and work experience placements. The programme

also includes personal and social development in areas that include citizenship, community and voluntary work, and outdoor development activities. Learners are encouraged to identify their long-term career goals and an individual plan is agreed with them to help them achieve their target.

Links with employers enables TBG to offer all learners the opportunity to find out what the world of work is really about through short-term placements leading to long-term employment prospects.

It's hardly surprising, therefore, that the programme has proven to be very popular with young learners. "e2e was a big help – it got me a job," says Nadine Wong.

Antonio Marta said: "e2e has taught me commitment. I'm on a course I enjoy which helps with my maths, English and computers. Even my mum is impressed with me."