

MAY 2011



Will Nixon

Welcome...

Welcome to the latest edition of PM News.

As you will read, it is an exciting time for the Aspire Group. The recent acquisition of Stafford and Leek based training provider, Indigo Training Solutions, complements the range of services PM Training is able to offer and we are extremely pleased to be working alongside an organisation that has similar values and commitments.

We are also pleased to report that PM Training is expanding outside of Stoke-on-Trent with work starting on a training centre based in Newcastle-under-Lyme, enabling us to offer more young people training and employment opportunities. We will continue to keep you updated on the centre's progress in forthcoming issues.

To remain up to date with the latest activities and happenings at PM Training, in addition to PM News, you can also visit our website, www.pmtraining.org.uk

Best wishes, **Will Nixon** - Chief Executive

Aspire Group Acquires Indigo Training



The Aspire Group has acquired training provider Indigo Training to expand and complement its existing range of services.

Indigo Training Solutions Ltd was established in 2004 and operates from training centres in Stafford and Leek. It has more than 30 staff and delivers training to those preparing for employment and existing employees who are in a position to develop their skills.

Indigo will operate as a social enterprise within the Aspire Group, but will retain

its own brand identity and continue trading under its own name.

Indigo's training offer includes apprenticeships, foundation learning and it also provides workshops in practical construction skills and ICT for 14 to 16-year-old school pupils.

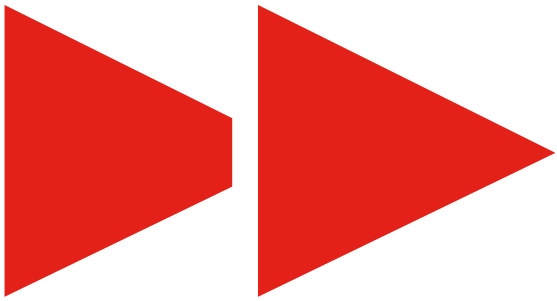
As well as complementing PM Training's service offer, the acquisition will allow the Aspire Group, which had primarily focused on North Staffordshire, to expand into other areas of the county.

Richard and Jayne Elsby, founders and directors of Indigo Training, will continue to help lead the company as directors in the Aspire Group's social enterprise arm.

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Growth Continues with New Training Centre

A new £500,000 training centre in Newcastle-Under-Lyme is set to create around 100 more apprenticeships every year after PM Training won planning permission for the scheme.

PM Training will now turn part of the existing Aspire Housing depot in Brick Kiln Lane, Chesterton, into a modern training centre. Work is due to start in June and the new facility is expected to open its doors in September.

The centre will feature workshops, training areas, classrooms and offices and will help young people develop essential skills in the construction and housing sectors.

PM Training's existing base in College Road, Shelton, will continue to provide training and apprenticeship courses in areas such as engineering, business administration and construction.

The redevelopment project is being carried out thanks to up to £275,000 of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) money. When complete, around 30 PM Training staff will work at the site – up to 10 of which could be newly created jobs.

PM Training aims to tackle worklessness among young people by offering those with no qualifications an alternative route into employment. The Brick Kiln Lane facility will enable around 150 more young people to train every year, about 100 of whom are expected to take up apprenticeships.

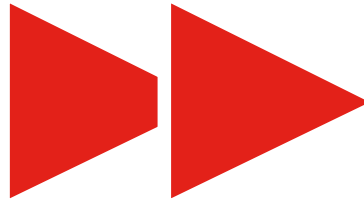
Chief executive Will Nixon said: "It's a very exciting time for the Aspire Group and this new site will be another part of our ongoing expansion.

"It used to be that around five per cent of PM's learners were from Newcastle-Under-Lyme and now that figure is closer to 30 per cent, so this centre makes perfect sense and will help us support those young people."

Will Nixon added: *"The addition of a Newcastle-Under-Lyme centre, as well as our sites in the other three local authority areas of North Staffordshire, will enable us to tackle worklessness even more effectively.*

"To be able to create another 100 apprenticeships places is a great boost to the area - especially during such a tough time economically – and this is exactly what PM Training, as a social enterprise, sets out to do."

Get apprenticeship-ready with PM Training



If you know someone aged 16-18, they may be interested in joining our Foundation Learning programme where we can help and support young people to become work-ready.

By joining our four week induction they will take part in:

- ▶▶ Workshop tasters (in Business Administration/Customer Services or Painting & Decorating/Engineering/Building Services)
- ▶▶ Paintball
- ▶▶ Football
- ▶▶ Sexual health awareness
- ▶▶ Equality & diversity training
- ▶▶ Citizenship
- ▶▶ Mentoring

There is also access to:

- ▶▶ State of the art training facilities
- ▶▶ FREE healthy breakfast
- ▶▶ £50 bonus upon completion of a 4 week induction (based on attendance and workbook completion) followed by a weekly £10 attendance bonus
- ▶▶ £25 'recommend a friend to PM' scheme
- ▶▶ FREE 'Be Healthy Scheme' including healthy eating and smoking cessation sessions
- ▶▶ FREE weekly bus pass that can be used at weekends or a mileage contribution if using a car or moped
- ▶▶ Bike to PM incentive scheme
- ▶▶ FREE work-ready toolkits when placed on an apprenticeship
- ▶▶ Access to 400+ companies for apprenticeship opportunities

Places are currently available so for further information please call us on (01782) 279121.

Artworks Successes...

Unusual and striking sculptures from our Artworks range have been installed in a number of new locations.

A nine foot model of Clough Hall Technology School's mascot has been installed recently at the entrance to the Kidsgrove school. It joins two climbers who are ascending the school's former brick climbing wall to reach a star and rainbow motif and the school's motto of 'reach for the stars'.

Another sculpture of an 18 foot long sailing boat is being made to go on a flat roof, with flag poles as the masts of the boat.

The project has been funded through the Realise Foundation and made by PM Training apprentices.

In addition Artworks is to feature as part of the pavement artworks in the University Quarter in Stoke-on-Trent. Staffordshire University students have created the designs and PM Training's apprentices have produced the steel artworks for the features, which will be inlaid in the pavement.

For further information about Artworks or to commission a piece, please contact us on **(01782) 279121** or visit www.pmtraining.org.uk





Support for Schools...



Youngsters secured £12,500 to revamp play area

HOODING THE LUMBERJACK: 10-year-old Springhead Primary School pupils David Buggery and Sophie Lee, plus 11-year-olds Daniel Miles and Harry Moss, try out the new hog sculpture on the playground.

New playground is a dream for pupils

BY JAMES TRINDLEWELL
www.barnsleynews.co.uk

SCHOOLCHILDREN are reaping the fruits of their labour after work based on their designs was completed to improve their school playground.

Pupils at Springhead Primary School, in Talke Park, designed and planned improvements as a reward last year to their playground. And they had to persuade a panel of judges to choose their school as beneficiaries of the funding.

Now previously unused land adjacent to the playground includes a maze, a wooden boat, an outside classroom and a giant hog sculpture.

The school secured funding of £12,500 from Aspire Housing as part of the housing association's 10th anniversary, in which 10 year olds were asked how their school's playground could be improved and why they deserved the funding.

In order to win the money the pupils had to show Aspire representatives their plans for the school, including their designs of how they wanted to improve the outside area.

Headteacher Brian Anderson said the pupils had assisted in their role to secure the school the funding.

He said: "The whole idea came from the children. They went on to the internet looking for

'I'm really glad we won, I can't wait to go in the maze'

David Bates, aged 10, from Waterways, said: "I think it's going to be fun. The children can have areas and avoid the site visitors can bring, the younger children to come play on it."

Nathan Bell, aged 11, from Talke Park, said: "It's going to help people be a bit more creative when they are playing. I like the one surface and not having to go on the muddy grass."

Oliver James, aged 10, from Talke Park, said: "It's a much better new because we can get to things and we will not get hurt off the heavy machinery. I can't wait to go in the maze."

It wasn't just a competition but a part of their learning and it's the children that have been the centre of the project.

"We've looked at the new facilities which even improve their behaviour because the children might fall out with each other if they've got all these things to do. It's our 10th anniversary this year so it's tied in nicely with that."

The competition began at the end of last year and the work has been completed this week.

Pupils made plans and took photographs of the area and also created a video backing their ideas.

The celebration has helped four schools in the area to improve their playgrounds through funding but it was Springhead that have benefited most from the funding.

Year five teacher Kate Costello said she was extremely proud of her pupils.

She said: "The children took pictures of what the grass looked like and what they wanted it to look like. The children did all of these designs themselves and they had many imagination ideas and they've got pretty much everything they wanted."

"It gives them different classes at play time."

"I'm really proud of them because their presentation was an exhibit and imaginative."

Pupil Jessica Potts, aged 10, from Aspley, said: "We did a lot of drawings of what we wanted the area to look like and we went to a lot of meetings."

Carver Preece, aged 11 from Talke, added: "My favourite part is the hog because we've never had a sculpture in school before."

"I enjoyed doing the presentation because we got to show people how our ideas compared to the actual ones."

Has your school just secured funding for a project? Email us at news@barnsley.co.uk

Children from two Newcastle schools are celebrating after projects funded by the Realise Foundation improved their playing areas.

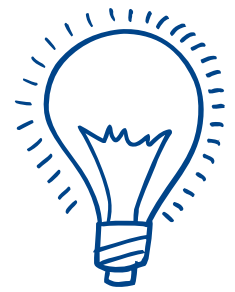
At St Giles' and St George's School a celebration event was held this month to mark the five years since the school moved from Newcastle town centre.

And at Springhead School in Talke work included a maze, wooden boat, outside classroom and a giant hog sculpture.

The two schools benefited from Aspire's "10 for 2010" environmental projects with Newcastle primary schools that began work during

Aspire Housing's 10th anniversary last year. PM Training's Homeworks teams contributed to the projects with work including restoring the schools old gates and creating new pathways and play areas.

Will Nixon, director of regeneration and business development for the Aspire Group and chief executive at PM Training, said: "We have worked with the children to design the improvement works and create an area the children and their parents can be proud of."



Carson Powell Construction Ltd



Carson Powell Construction Ltd was formed in April 2009 when Steve Carson Joinery Services Ltd and Powell Construction Ltd merged. The merger between the two companies brought a huge range of expertise in technical qualifications and building/maintenance experience which is now second to none in the area.

We are able to carry out all types of building and refurbishing work on commercial, residential and industrial premises to the highest standard ensuring total customer satisfaction. We offer a range of services for all our commercial, residential and industrial clients, which includes:

- ▶▶ Complete design & new build of industrial units or your dream home
- ▶▶ Dilapidation works
- ▶▶ Fit-outs
- ▶▶ Refurbishments
- ▶▶ Painting & decorating
- ▶▶ Extensions, garages, conservatories and sun rooms
- ▶▶ Bathroom & kitchen design and fitting service
- ▶▶ Flooring
- ▶▶ Joinery
- ▶▶ UPVC windows, doors, guttering & fascias
- ▶▶ Roofing
- ▶▶ Fire damage & insurance work

Our client base includes the NHS PCT, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Cadburys, Wedgwood, Valad, Sanctuary Housing, Harris Lamb and the MoD amongst others.

Since its inception 10 years ago the company's maintenance division has proved increasingly popular with both residential and commercial clients alike. Our services include:

- ▶▶ 24 hour call out for emergency repairs
- ▶▶ Day-to-day responsive repairs
- ▶▶ Pre-planned and regular maintenance service

Types of work included within these services are:

- ▶▶ Roofing
- ▶▶ Central heating & plumbing
- ▶▶ Boiler installation, servicing & repair
- ▶▶ Pipe & gas fitting
- ▶▶ Plastering & tiling
- ▶▶ Boarding-up service
- ▶▶ All aspects of joinery services
- ▶▶ All aspects of glazing
- ▶▶ Flooring – from natural wood to general and non-slip flooring
- ▶▶ Security shutters, grilles alarms, lighting & CCTV
- ▶▶ All aspects of decorating both internal & external

We are proud to offer a superb range of windows, doors and conservatories to supplement our commercial & industrial, residential and maintenance divisions. Based in Stoke-on-Trent, and able to cover nationwide, we specialise in doors, windows and conservatories. Our extensions provide extra living space and are constructed using the highest quality materials, providing our customers with fabulous new living areas.

We insist on installing the very best UPVC, aluminium and real wood window and door systems which is why we only use reputable suppliers throughout our building and construction projects.

All of our members of staff have excellent technical qualifications and experience within the trade as well as having up to date health and safety training which we take very seriously.

By partnering with PM Training, our workforce now includes staff that are working towards NVQ levels II and III in Customer Service, Team Leading and Management qualifications. One of our younger members of staff, who spent 18 months with us as an apprentice, was offered full-time employment in January this year and is now working as a valued member of our windows and doors team.

Timberland DIY Ltd

DIY Supplies, Plumbing, Hardware, Windows made to size.

Ironmongery, Bottle Gas Stockists, Timber and Plywood cut to size.

Timberland DIY Ltd was founded approximately 30 years ago by two brothers, John and Peter Dennis. With original premises on Lightwood Road, Longton, we carried out a successful DIY business and started a small joinery side. When the local council decided that a new road was required, which would be in the middle of our premises, we relocated to our current premises on Sutherland Road, Longton.

From the early days of running the business, we recognised the benefits of recruiting an apprentice and employed an apprentice joiner, Carl Taylor. Carl Taylor is now the managing director for the company, while John and Peter enjoy their semi-retirement. Carl developed the company into what it is today, by securing joinery contracts with local companies such as Seddon Ltd, Aspire Housing and Kier (Stoke) Ltd, to name just a few.

The new premises have enabled us to expand the joinery side of the business, and it has gone from strength to strength. We are able to manufacture anything from a cupboard door to a flight of stairs, window frames for a family home to church windows, a child's toy chest to whatever you can imagine, including a display case for someone's pet snake!! One of the most unusual projects we have ever undertaken was to construct a number of sash windows for a grade two listed building!

The extra space in the shop area has allowed for expansion of the goods available for sale. These range from sandpaper to paint, calor gas heaters (and refills) to fire surround and radiator covers, shelving to decking (not forgetting the screws needed to fix it). Whether you are a gardener, builder, plasterer,

decorator, plumber or an electrician, we have what you need.

In fact our motto is: *"If you can't see what you want, we will do our best to get it for you!"*

Our business has developed to include personal protective equipment and from this, Longton Protective Clothing was born. We are able to not only provide the uniform for companies but also to embroider or screen print their company logo onto them at a competitive rate. We can also provide this service to schools and are now the sole supplier of school uniform for a lot of the local junior schools including Sandford Hill Primary School, Gladstone Primary School, St Gregory's Junior School and we continue to look out for new contracts.

Our close partnership with PM Training has helped the business - we have seen first hand the benefits of apprenticeships and developing your own staff, with current members working towards NVQs.



TIMBERLAND DIY LTD

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