



Expanding North West nursery group receives funding boost

1st March 2017 – Manchester-headquartered nursery provider Just Childcare has been boosted by an eight-figure investment as it continues to enhance its day care children's nurseries across the North West and Yorkshire.

Just Childcare has been rolling out a programme to enhance the facilities at many of their nurseries after recent growth has seen the provider increase their portfolio to 35 nurseries across the North West and Yorkshire. The funding provided by Allied Irish Bank (GB) is supporting this upgrade programme and providing a platform for future growth through potential acquisitions and creating new jobs as the group looks to expand further.

Just Childcare was established in 2004 by Directors David and Jaqueline Johnson who have between them 65 years of childcare and education experience. In 2014 Phoenix Private Equity invested into the business, commencing a buy and build strategy, which has seen the business grow from 7 to 35 nurseries and become one of the top 10 providers in the sector across the UK. Today Just Childcare employs 570 staff, with the majority of nurseries holding Ofsted 'Outstanding' and 'Good' ratings, supported centrally by a head office on Progress Way in Denton, Manchester.

David Johnson, Director Just Childcare explained: "We know how important it is for families to feel that their children are being cared for in a safe and positive environment, under the supervision of experienced staff. This is the ethos of our company and we remain committed to providing the very highest standards of care and facilities. The funding provided by Allied Irish Bank (GB) is being used to complete the refurbishment of some of our nurseries and enhance even further the facilities that we offer, some of which include sensory rooms and Forest Schools. I have worked with Allied Irish Bank (GB) for over 13 years, they are a long-standing supporter of Just Childcare and funded our set up in 2004."

Mike Rogers, Senior Relationship Manager at Allied Irish Bank (GB) said: "Just Childcare has built up an enviable reputation and we are very pleased to continue our support of their business. This is an exciting stage of their development as they look to enhance their current nurseries and also embark on a potential acquisition trail to grow the business further."

Advisors on the deal were Kuits solicitors in Manchester who acted on behalf of Allied Irish Bank (GB), Gateley solicitors acted on behalf of Just Childcare.

Christie & Co, who have previously been involved in many of the Just Childcare acquisitions carried out the portfolio valuation and also provided a valuable sector insight to assist the bank in this refinancing project.

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