



## **National Care Group expands with two new acquisitions**

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2018** – Bury-based healthcare provider National Care Group Ltd (NCG) has completed the acquisition of two care providers; Norfolk based Westward Healthcare Ltd and Gloucester based Access Care Ltd (operating as Merry Den Care and Chosen Care).

Funding to support the acquisitions has been provided by Allied Irish Bank (GB) with loan facilities that have been structured as part of the bank's Funding Scheme which was launched in January to support growth activity for medium and large sized businesses.

NCG is an established provider of care and support services to vulnerable adults throughout the UK who may experience learning disabilities, mental health needs, challenging behaviour, autistic spectrum conditions, neuro-disabilities, acquired brain injuries, physical disabilities and other associated complex health needs. Established in March 2016, NCG work closely with clients, family members, local authorities and healthcare providers to provide high quality, person centred care through supported living, residential care, outreach and home support, and day services.

These two acquisitions form part of NCG's growth strategy to expand and reach a target of offering 5,000 beds by 2022. NCG currently operates 643 beds across the UK with Westward Healthcare Ltd adding 37 beds and Access Care Ltd (Merry Den Care and Chosen Care) with over 50 beds.

Access Care Ltd has two operating companies Merry Den Care and Chosen Care. They specialise in residential, domiciliary care and supported living for a range of individual needs including learning and physical disabilities and also mental health needs. Chosen Care operates two residential properties; Chosen Court and Yew Tree House and a third supported living house at Oxstalls. All are located across the Gloucester area. Merry Den Care also operates across Gloucester with six supported living homes and Merry Den Flats providing domiciliary care.

Westward Healthcare Ltd is located in Norfolk and provides support for adults with a range of learning disabilities, autism, epilepsy and other additional complex needs. Established in 2009 and developed into two sites, Westward Farm and Westward Barns, both provide specialised and individual residential support for men and women from 18 years onwards.

**David Rowe-Bewick, Group Finance Director at NCG said:** "The acquisitions enhance our services and provision of care across the UK and form a key part of our expansion strategy and target to reach 5,000 beds by 2022. We have been very impressed with the support from our bankers at Allied Irish Bank (GB) and the way Simon King and the team conducted themselves. They have been very efficient and pragmatic in their approach and delivered the right funding solution. We hope to work with them again as we seek to expand NCG with future acquisitions as part of our continued growth strategy."

Simon King, Senior Relationship Manager at Allied Irish Bank (GB) heads up the bank's healthcare team in the North region.

**Simon King, Senior Relationship Manager at Allied Irish Bank (GB) said:** "NCG boast a highly specialised team who are equipped with the knowledge and skills to support their clients and deliver the best possible service nationwide. I am delighted to be working with NCG to support the acquisition of Access Care Ltd and Westward Healthcare Ltd. David and the management team are very focused on growth and have experienced very impressive expansion over the last two years."

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