

Care group's new city home

A Black Country care home business has expanded its portfolio by acquiring a home in Wolverhampton. The Belvidere Group has purchased Bellevue Court on Woodcross Road from the HC-One Group with financial support from Barclays.

The group, owned by husband and wife team Dr Shahzada Ahmed and Shamaela Ahmed, has two further homes in the area. Belvidere Residential Home in Dudley and Orton Manor Nursing Home in Water Orton. Bellevue Court, which was purpose built in 1994, provides nursing care for 64 clients. The name of the home will shortly be changed to Belvidere Court to reflect its new ownership.

Dr Ahmed, said: "The Bellevue Court has a good reputation locally and provides great facilities. We want to build on that and are delighted to have been able to add this home to our existing portfolio and our overall ambition to provide outstanding personalised care."

Dr Shahzada Ahmed is a consultant rhinologist and skull base surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Birmingham Priory Hospital. The day to day running of the homes will be managed by Shamaela Ahmed with the new manager Miss Iram Khan.

Manoj Patel, relationship director at Barclays said: "The Belvidere Group strives to provide a high standard of care. I am delighted we have been able to support them with their strategic growth plan."

PwC sponsoring family firm award

PricewaterhouseCoopers is inviting fast-growing family businesses from across the Midlands to enter the Midlands Family Business Awards.

PwC is sponsoring the fastest growing award, which is one of 10 categories in the region's only independent awards celebrating and recognising the region's family run and owned enterprises.

The free to enter and not-for-profit awards were established in 2010.

Chris Romans, partner and private business leader at PwC in the Midlands said: "We're pleased to support the fastest growing family business category again this year, as we believe it's important to recognise the significant contribution family businesses make to the UK economy."

"We work with many family businesses in the region to help them grow and flourish."

Information on how to enter is available from the website www.familybusinessawards.co.uk



Chris Romans

RP invests £110k in its tool room

Kingswinford tooling and injection moulding company, RP Technologies has ended its financial year on a high by investing £110,000 to increase tool room capacity.

The company has purchased two Hurco CNC machining centres which will improve RP Technologies' current capabilities and lead times. The VM30i and the VMX30i will add to the already impressive suite of Hurco machining centres in the firm's on-site tool room.

The VM30i is a three-axis vertical milling machine with a small footprint but a large work cube. A spokesman said: "No other mill packs as much productivity in to such an efficiently designed package. The VMX30i is one of Hurco's signature milling centres that takes machining to the next level."

"This machine delivers high performance capabilities to any machining application."

The investment in new machinery will increase the capacity and productivity in the tool room at its base on the Pensnett Trading Estate.

Rose of Sharon moves into Hawthorns House

A care in the community business is to move into West Bromwich landmark building Hawthorns House.

Rose of Sharon Care Services has agreed a five-year lease with agents Bond Wolfe to take 2,670 sq ft on the second floor.

The independently-owned domiciliary care company has over eight years' experience in the profession and aims to provide high quality personal support to clients living in the community.

Situated close to both Junction 1 of the M5 motorway and the A41 Birmingham Road, five-storey Hawthorns House, has around 30,000 sq ft of space.

Bond Wolfe recently said that the UK arm of global metals giant Novelis, a world leader in aluminium rolling and recycling, which counts Jaguar Land Rover as a long standing partner, was taking 7,608 sq ft.

James Mattin, Bond Wolfe managing partner, said: "We are thrilled that Hawthorns House is proving so popular. It offers refurbished offices which are both versatile and stylish."



Landmark

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Financing new customers through crowdlending



ArchOver's Angus Dent

Angus Dent, chief executive of peer-to-peer crowdfunder ArchOver, looks at the alternative routes to finance that can help a firm looking to improve its operations.

A transport company has about 20 HGVs. It has half a dozen regular clients that use the company extensively several times a month, a dozen customers that use it a few times a month and a larger number that use it a few times a year.

It owns half of the lorries and leases the others. It rents a parking space for the lorries, an office and a workshop used for basic maintenance on the lorries.

It wants to improve its facilities and road fleet to help attract more high volume regular customers.

As always, the place to start is "what assets do I have?"

The land is rented, so no help there. However, it does own 10 trucks, so by either selling them to a leasing company and leasing them back, or selling them outright and leasing 10 state of the art trucks, it can further its aim of improving its fleet. Both these would free up capital, but add to running costs.

Costs

It might be able to save on running costs by closing its maintenance workshop and coming to an advantageous arrangement with an external facility, or, if all the trucks are leased, most maintenance would fall under the leasing contract anyway.

Without the need for a workshop, the com-

pany could save by renting less land and no longer having to employ mechanics.

If the company's debtor book is sufficiently robust and the business plan is sound, further capital could be obtained through the alternative option of a fixed term crowdlending loan.

ArchOver offers loans of £100,000 plus and allows the company to be certain of how much cash it has over the term of the whole loan.

Unlike invoice discounting, ArchOver loans do not require personal guarantees and, while loans could be sought from a traditional bank, with no property to secure a loan against, it is unlikely to be successful without the directors' personal wealth being pledged.

To find out more about crowdlending for business, email: angus.dent@archover.com, ring 0203 021 8100 or visit www.archover.com

Report by Simon Penfold
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BLACK Country manufacturer, JC Payne has undertaken significant investment into its future growth with the acquisition of new and existing premises in Aldridge.

Funding to support this has been provided by Royal Bank of Scotland.

The company has bought both its existing 90,000 sq ft premises on Westgate in Aldridge and a 40,000 sq ft derelict building next door. The price tag on the deal is not being revealed.

The new building is to be developed in the future to provide additional production facilities to accommodate the business' steady growth.

The cements the company's focus on manufacturing in the West Midlands, and JC Payne has recruited 15 new workers as a result of taking on the new premises, with more currently being sought. It now employs a total of around 130 people.

Expanded

Specialising in the manufacture of bodies for commercial vehicles from 3.5 tonne and above, J C Payne is a family-run business which was originally established in 1926. It was acquired by current owners Kevan Brandrick and his two sons Garry and Neil Brandrick in 2009 and has expanded steadily during this time.

In 2015, the organisation established J C Payne Specialist Services, a separate company which was the result of the acquisition of Aire Body Care which had gone into administration.

J C Payne secured jobs and rebranded the firm which provides commercial vehicle body and tail lift service, repair and maintenance and also operates from the company's Aldridge premises.

Managing director Neil Brandrick said: "The acquisition is a great move for us and really cements the future of our business



Neil Brandrick, managing director at JC Payne, and David Robinson, from Royal Bank of Scotland, at the factory in Aldridge

in the region. The company has performed steadily during the last few years and we are continuing to focus on our growth strategy to secure future expansion.

"The purchase of the two premises supports our plans, securing our existing operations whilst also providing us with the ideal space in which to expand when the time is right."

"The support we have received from Royal Bank of Scotland has been excellent.

David Robinson and his team completely understood the importance of securing this acquisition for our business and acted in a short time frame to help complete the deal.

Commitment

"The service has been very good and they have shown their commitment to working with us."

David Robinson, head of manufacturing Midlands at Royal Bank of Scotland, said:

"I am pleased that we have been able to support Kevan, Neil and Garry in their bid to acquire the two premises."

"This will be a very good move for the company and will provide them with long term security and the space they need to expand."

"The funding deal we provided was very competitive and we have been delighted to support such a successful local manufacturer."

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BCRS increasing its loans for businesses



The world of finance is constantly changing to meet the demands of the SME business community and as a result BCRS Business Loans has significantly increased the number of loans available to local businesses.

Chief executive Paul Kalinauckas said: "Our sole purpose at BCRS is to provide access to finance to enable businesses to grow and prosper by providing business loans from £10,000 to £150,000 to those that are unable to get finance from mainstream lenders."

"BCRS was set up 14 years ago and since then we have lent over £29.8million to businesses across the West Midlands."

"There is a lot we can do to help businesses and we are looking to connect with them as

their friendly, local business loan fund. We are proud to say that we have been able to help over 900 local businesses to date. But it doesn't stop there; BCRS has also helped to create, through the loan funds, over 2,600 new jobs and keep nearly 4,500 jobs safe.

Approachable

"The BCRS model is of an approachable lender and we assess each individual case on its own merits. We operate very much with a traditional lending ethos rather than impersonal computerised credit scoring and our business development & lending managers come and see you in order to learn more about your business."

"All at BCRS are excited about the future. We continue to demonstrate our commitment to growth and the non-bank lending market as

a whole. For us no viable business should go unsupported."

"We understand that getting business finance can sometimes be a problem and we want to do everything we can to meet the demand for loans. Not only does it mean that a business can thrive with our help but also create jobs and contribute to the social, environmental and economic well-being of the area."

"A BCRS loan can be used for a wide range of projects including expansion, purchasing equipment, recruitment and marketing. BCRS lend to most market sectors including construction, engineering, IT services, manufacturing, service providers and wholesalers."

"Interested and want to find out more? Visit www.bcrs.org.uk

"We're looking forward to hearing from you."



Paul Kalinauckas