

Bryson Charitable Group steps forward

This new contract will see the Bryson Group grow further with staff increasing to over 680 employees across Northern Ireland and Co Donegal and turnover is predicted to break the £30 million mark making Bryson in the top 2% of Northern Ireland companies. North City Training faced tough competition from a range of local, national and international providers of training and employment to win this contract. This contract cements the continued growth of North City Training, which has doubled in size over the last 4 years.

Liam McNeill, Director of North City Training Ltd said, *“We are delighted to have won the contract especially against such fierce competition to operate and manage the Steps to Work programme in South and East Belfast. We are now the largest provider of the programme across the City helping over 6000 people each year to achieve their potential. We firmly believe in improving people’s skills and giving them a helping hand to find suitable employment, particularly in this current economic climate. This programme is vital in assisting the unemployed to gain new skills and real work experience with employers leading to employment. We believe our strength lies in our ability to flexibly deliver training and support to meet individual needs”.*

The Steps to Work programme is a key Department for Employment and Learning tool to assist people who are unemployed or economically inactive to find and sustain employment. Its objective is to contribute to an increase in the employment levels to 75% by 2020 in line with the Northern Ireland Programme for Government. North City Training will provide clients with personalised advice and guidance, retraining leading to recognised qualifications, improving skills and work based experience.

John McMullan, Chief Executive Bryson Charitable Group said, *“As a social enterprise Bryson are dedicated to tackling key social issues such as unemployment rates and in particular the young unemployed. We are delighted to have won this contract which endorses our social enterprise model and demonstrates that it is delivering real impact, value for money and growth in a time of increased economic pressure in Northern Ireland”.*

For more information on North City Training and the Steps to Work programme please log onto www.nctni.com

For more information please contact Siobhan Purnell on 028 90325835 or spurnell@brysongroup.org

About North City Training

North City Training, part of Bryson Charitable Group, is a premier provider of work based learning for disadvantaged young people and adult unemployed. It employs over 70 staff and delivers key government contracts such as the Steps to Work programme, Training for Success, Apprenticeships NI and European Social Fund programmes.

About Bryson Charitable Group

The Bryson Charitable Group is Northern Ireland's leading social enterprise and a leader in the delivery of sustainable responses to existing and emerging social need. The Bryson Group employs over 680 staff with an annual turnover in excess of £29M. Bryson Charitable Group is comprised of seven individual business units: Bryson Recycling, Bryson Care, Multi-Cultural Resource Centre, Lagan Watersports, North City Training, Partnership Care West and Bryson Energy. For more information on the Bryson Group please see their web site – www.brysongroup.org

About the Steps to Work programme

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/stepstowork>

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