

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 8th April

Visit proves a big Pluss for MP Adrian Sanders

Torbay MP Adrian Sanders has visited a Paignton based organisation which provides employment and training opportunities for disabled people.

Mr Sanders, Liberal Democrat MP for Torbay, visited Pluss to talk to the staff, clients and managers, and to see first hand the real benefits that employment brings.

During his two hour tour, Mr Sanders visited Pluss' manufacturing and mobility equipment businesses at Waddeton close where over 60 people are directly employed. He then went on to Aspen Road to visit Pluss' employment training service that helps over 65 people with learning disabilities and 150 people with mental health issues prepare for and find work.

During his visit Mr Sanders saw the wide range of products manufactured by Pluss including production of silica gel bags for British Telecom, production of greeting cards and recycled animal bedding. He also observed a health and safety training session and visited the mobility equipment retail outlet.

Adrian Sanders, MP said

"I am very impressed at the work being undertaken through Pluss and by the skills and enthusiasm of the employees. The organisation does amazingly well to win contracts and the employees demonstrate their abilities time and time again to fulfil them in a highly competitive market."

Geraldine Scott-Smith, Marketing Manager at Pluss said

"We are really pleased to have Mr Sanders visit us to see some of the work we do. We employ some fantastic people who are committed, skilled and hard working – qualities all employers value. Our partnership working with hundreds of businesses in the Torbay area means that they too can reap these business benefits.

On top of this, work is good for you. People in work are better off financially, have better health, self esteem and control over how they live their life. I hope Mr Sanders has seen many examples of this here today"

-ends-

Notes to Editors

About Pluss

Pluss provides employment support and training to over 2,000 people with disabilities in Devon and Somerset (over 400 in Torbay).

Pluss also offers a disability advice and support service to over 700 employers and currently works with organisations such as Torbay Council, Paignton Zoo, Sparex and all the major supermarkets. Pluss also provides direct employment for over 260 disabled people in its mobility equipment and manufacturing businesses.

Pluss was recently awarded as one of the top five Social Firms in the country. It has also been recognised as a leading employment provider in the House of Commons and by OFSTED (formerly the Adult Learning Inspectorate).

Pluss is a Local Authority Controlled Company owned by Torbay Council, Plymouth City Council, Devon County Council and Somerset Council. It is a non - profit distributing company with an annual turnover of £20 million (All profit is ploughed back in to the company to further develop employment services for disabled people).

Pluss' vision is to ensure that people with disabilities are enabled and empowered to reach their goals. Visit www.pluss.org.uk

For more information and case studies on Pluss please contact

Geraldine Scott-Smith / Monica Shillingford on 01752 306657.

geraldine.scott-smith@pluss.org.uk or monica.shillingford@pluss.org.uk