

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Friday 11th April

### **Visit proves a big Pluss for MP Nick Harvey**

North Devon MP Nick Harvey has visited a Barnstaple based organisation which provides employment and training opportunities for disabled people.

Mr Harvey, Liberal Democrat MP for North Devon, visited Pluss to talk to the staff and to see first hand the real benefits that employment brings.

During his two hour tour, Mr Harvey visited Pluss' manufacturing and mobility equipment businesses at Pottington Business Park where over 50 people are directly employed. He also visited the employment team who help a further 105 people find work with a range of employers across North Devon, including Sodexo, Buckleigh Laundry and all the major supermarkets.

During his visit Mr Harvey was shown the Manufacturing division that specialises in producing top of the market wooden furniture, including beds for luxury bed maker, Vi-spring. Every bed is made to a specific order and can sell for up to thirty eight thousand pounds. Pluss produce up to 900 beds a week which are distributed around the world. They also manufacture wooden tables for regional schools and colleges.

Nick Harvey, MP said

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Pluss put its business success down to its staff. Peter Copp, Manufacturing Manager at Pluss, said

“We're very pleased to welcome Mr Harvey to visit us at Pluss so he can see some of the best staff in action. It works so well because we focus on an individual's ability and what they *can* do. We employ people in real work in a commercial environment that uses their abilities to the best effect. The staff at Barnstaple work as a team and are very proud of what they achieve always rising to the challenge when the customer demands ever higher production and quality standards. I hope that Mr Harvey has seen this in abundance 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 (approximately 200 in North Devon). This includes offering direct employment in its mobility equipment and manufacturing businesses.

Pluss also offers a disability advice and support service to over 700 employers (over 70 in North Devon) including Sodexo, Buckleigh Laundry and local supermarkets.

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 Devon County Council, Torbay Council, Plymouth City 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](http://www.pluss.org.uk)

### **For more information and case studies on Pluss please contact**

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