

Smart move for Chessmann

One of the UK's leading specialists in the residential care sector, Chessmann Consulting, celebrates 10 years in the business this month.

It has marked the occasion with a move to larger, strategically-located offices, a corporate rebrand and a commitment to further expand its services.

Lee Bishop, managing director, who started the business in 1998, has seen his creation grow from modest beginnings in its home city of Cardiff to a nationwide tour de force.

Chessmann specialises in construction consultancy for the private residential care sector. Its services include project management, cost management and building consultancy.

In March, Chessmann relocated from its city centre headquarters to 5,500 sq ft purpose-built offices in a premier office park near the M4 and thus with fast access to the UK motorway network.

The move reflects not just the need for increased space but also a national client base stretching way beyond the borders of Wales.

"Our regional location belies our position as a nationwide player," says Lee Bishop.

"We may not compete with the multi-nationals in terms of size, yet we punch way above our weight. Our approach means we offer a friendly, niche service, but with a level of professional expertise and service generally associated with much bigger operations.

"We're working on major projects all over the UK and for many of the leading names in the sector, which proves the point."

Among its clients are corporate, not-for-profit and private operators, as well as funders.

One of Chessmann's current major projects is the construction of what is one of the largest care home developments in the UK in terms of overall numbers of beds on one site.

Work began earlier this year on building two adjacent homes for Restful Homes Group – one of 89 beds and the other of 78 beds – in Winson Green, Birmingham. The two spacious homes have comparable specifications and both incorporate dementia units. Due for completion in spring 2009, they stand on a canal side site within a few hundred yards of Birmingham City Hospital.

Chessmann has previously worked for Restful Homes Group on a number of projects, notably the construction of the 148-bed Milton Court Care Centre, Milton Keynes, in 2006. Chessmann has also worked for the group on projects in the Midlands and hopes to be involved with its current development pipeline of a further 350 high quality beds.

Another notable Chessmann scheme in the care home sector is the recently-



The Directors of Chessmann at the new offices



Cornford House – 'green' care home

completed Cornford House, Tunbridge Wells. Chessmann project-managed the two-year development of this 'green' care home for Graham Care. Cornford House is designed to maximise energy

conservation, with environmentally-friendly solutions to heating, lighting and ventilation.

The firm's goals include a doubling of fee turnover and number of employees in

the next five years – an ambition it looks well on the way to achieving.

• For more information please e-mail enquiries@chessmann.co.uk, or visit the website www.chessmann.co.uk