



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

The best people to inspire and guide young students are those in good careers themselves and it's imperative that schools and colleges build better and more lasting relationships with local businesses and successful alumni in order to bolster careers guidance and make it not only more approachable but more effective.

– **David Ward, MP for Bradford East, welcoming the Government's beefing-up of careers guidance for schools, with an emphasis on students meeting employers face-to-face.**

We quickly recognised that having a strong local presence was key to being taken seriously in our key growth markets. The company has exported to the Middle East region for many years but never with the degree of focus that we now have because we recognise the potential is so vast.



– **Mark Viner (pictured), commercial director, Airedale International Air Conditioning, on the company's plans to boost exports.**

There has been consistent growth in overall business lending in Yorkshire since 2012, and we're generally seeing lots of opportunities emerging and growth across all business sectors. In the last quarter of 2013 and first quarter of 2014, we've seen a huge increase in medium-term loans which is a key indicator of confidence returning as businesses seek support to fund business growth.

– **Mike Hemingway, HSBC West Yorkshire area commercial director, on the bank's allocation of an extra £6 billion for SME funding.**

It is great to see the positive impact this funding is having across the city region, creating more than 2,000 jobs and supporting economic

growth for a whole host of innovative and enterprising projects.

– **Coun Keith Wakefield, chairman of the Leeds City Region Investment Panel, on Local Enterprise Partnership, which covers Bradford, using the Government's Business Growth Programme to provide £16 million in grants to local businesses.**

Poignant time for psychologist Kevin



TIME TO REMEMBER: Liverpool and Everton fans sit side by side at yesterday's memorial service for the victims of the Hillsborough disaster at Anfield

Man who 'helped the helpers' after the Hillsborough disaster recalls city response

by **Chris Holland** Business Reporter

The 25th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster in which 96 Liverpool football fans died – marked with ceremonies in Liverpool and Sheffield yesterday – has a particular poignancy for psychologist Kevin Tasker, who helped the helpers in the wake of the tragedy.

Mr Tasker, a partner at The Centre for Crisis Psychology, helped to provide psychological support to social workers, psychologists and counsellors recruited by Liverpool City Council to support the injured and bereaved.

Kevin said: "My abiding memory of the days and weeks following Hillsborough is the way the whole of Liverpool came together to provide

support and help for those affected. As someone who was not from the city it was incredibly moving to see this level of collective unity, which spoke volumes for the people of Merseyside."

In the immediate aftermath of the event, Liverpool Council moved quickly, setting up drop-in centres and helplines as well as recruiting specialist support staff. They also called on Michael Stewart, the founder of Skipton-based CCP, to provide bespoke training and advice.

A former social worker, Mr Stewart had led the award-winning Bradford Council emergency response team which spent around two years counselling the bereaved and survivors of the Bradford City fire in 1985.

Kevin said: "By bringing Michael on board, they had direct access to an individual with unprecedented experience of similar tragedies. The focus on also supporting those providing the care represented a significant shift in dealing with the psychological aftermath of traumatic incidents."

"Historically, the focus had always been on those directly affected, be it family, friends or survivors. However it was equally important to support the

counsellors and social workers who were hearing harrowing stories on a daily basis.

"When their shifts finished we were on hand to help them deal with this and we also made regular visits to drop-in centres, where groups and individuals congregated."

With the latest inquests into the 96 deaths under way, Kevin said, the families would be suffering from repetitive trauma.

Although not a direct legacy of Hillsborough, the Civil Contingencies Act became law in 2004, which requires local authorities to have a plan in place for dealing with the period immediately following a traumatic incident.

Kevin said: "The act was a major step forward, however too many councils still place the emphasis on the practical aspects of an incident and ignore the need for psychological support which is equally, if not more, important."

CCP has responded to 7,000 major incidents around the world, including the July 7 bombings in London, the Concordia cruise ship disaster, the Egyptian hot air balloon catastrophe and Typhoon Haiyan.

'Beware the taxman' says expert



WARNING: Nigel Westman

Small businesses and sole traders which trade in cash face an increased risk of being investigated by the taxman after recent figures showed that the level of unpaid VAT had risen by 25 per cent in the last 12 months.

Cleckheaton and Keighley accountants Clough and Company has warned that HM Revenue & Customs is stepping up its tax investigations in 2014.

Partner Nigel Westman said: "It's more important than ever

that businesses that trade heavily in cash, such as retailers and tradesmen, have their VAT affairs in order.

"HMRC estimates that the gap in unpaid VAT increased by £1.5 billion in just 12 months, which is why it has said that it wants to find the minority who aren't paying what is due and to protect the vast majority of honest businesses and individuals from being cheated by these unscrupulous operators.

"Even if there has been no

deliberate avoidance of VAT, businesses that regularly receive cash payments could still find themselves subject to in-depth compliance checks through HMRC's intervention process as they increase their level of VAT-related investigation activity."

Mr Westman said checks could involve a detailed inspection of the tax records and a review of relevant documentation by multi-disciplinary teams.

Damart's backing for North Pole skier

Bingley-based thermal clothing specialist Damart has donated clothing to retired Leeds GP Professor Phil Heywood, who is skiing to the North Pole this month to raise money for Voluntary Service Overseas.

Professor Heywood, 69, is hoping to raise £30,000 in 2014 to help fund VSO's work to reduce the number of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth in the developing world. He has spent the past five years working in Cambodia, South Sudan and Vietnam working for VSO.

Phil Anderson, Damart's marketing and e-commerce director, said: "Professor Heywood is an inspirational figure. Since retiring he has continued to help others.

"As the inventor of thermal, the least we can do is give him some of our warmest thermals to keep him warm."

Professor Heywood said: "More than 6,000 women worldwide die every week from childbirth and pregnancy. I've witnessed first-hand how distressing this can be and want to help fund VSO."

PEC keeps hospital contract

Bradford-based PEC has retained its maintenance support contract for mechanical and plumbing work at Bradford Royal Infirmary and had its remit extended to include electrical work.

The firm retained the contract following a competitive tender process.

PEC, based at the Euroway trading estate, now has a six-strong on-site team carrying out repair and maintenance work at the hospital.

It also provides a maintenance service at St Luke's Hospital, and supplements the on-site team with tradesmen from its head office for high priority projects.

Work ranges from joinery to plumbing, mechanical and electrical, as well as monitoring and maintenance of the hospital's hydrotherapy pool facility.

PEC, which carries out contracting, manufacturing and shopfitting contracts in the private sector, also works extensively in the healthcare sector on both fit-out and maintenance contracts for clients including Bupa, the NHS and One Medical.