



PRESS RELEASE

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CONSULTANCY BUCKS RECESSION WITH STRONG START TO 2009

Innovative public sector consultancy Organisation Development Services (ODS) has enjoyed a strong start to 2009, with a series of major contract wins and the launch of a new training division.

The Manchester-based business, which specialises in change management and workforce planning, has to date secured £500,000 of new contracts for 2009.

These include projects in the North West and Yorkshire for local authorities, NHS primary care trusts and a police force.

ODS is also expanding its services with the launch of a new training division. One and two-day courses run by ODS consultants will operate from the company's state-of-the-art training suite at its new offices in Ducie House, Manchester.

To support its continuing growth, the company has recruited two new employees: senior consultant Jackie Barringer, who has 27 years' experience of working in the NHS, and consultant Victoria Kehoe, a former manager from Halton Council.

Speaking at the official launch of ODS' new offices, joint managing director Carol Brooks said: "Following on from a record year in 2008, we are delighted to report such a strong start to 2009.

"Despite facing increasing competition for public sector business due to the recession, we are more than holding our own. Not only are we continuing to win business, but we are also expanding our services too, with the launch of a new training division to capture our share of this important market."

Joint managing director Donna Bradshaw added: “At a time of doom and gloom, it is great to be able to announce expansion and recruitment, and to make a positive contribution to the local economy.”

She added: “The recession is a real opportunity for us to help our clients meet increasing demands for efficiency savings and new ways of working in the public sector.

“We have always focused on delivering strong, bottom-line benefits through our work – and that will become ever more important in the months ahead.”

The official opening of ODS’ brand new, purpose-built offices at Ducie House, Manchester, on 29 April 2009 was attended by 80 guests from across the UK.

The building was officially opened by Professor Dame Joan Higgins – a former Manchester Business School colleague of Donna Bradshaw and Carol Brooks. Also speaking at the event was Tom Bloxham, Group Founder and Co-Chairman of Urban Splash Group Ltd – owners of Ducie House.

ODS’ 3,100 square feet duplex offices stand on the site of a former petticoat factory in Ducie Street, Manchester. Before their conversion into offices, the self-contained unit was the site of the Home nightclub.

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Hi-res pictures available on request.

- Organisation Development Services (ODS) is a successful and innovative public sector consultancy specialising in organisation development and change management. www.odsuk.com
- Established in 2005, the company advises clients across the NHS and local government – helping them to translate complex public policies into workable actions on the ground. Improving performance through people is a key focus of the business.
- The company is led by joint managing directors Carol Brooks and Donna Bradshaw – both successful public sector directors and visiting fellows of the Manchester Business School. It is based in Ducie Street, Manchester.

Media enquiries to: Libby Howard, tel. 07879 446277, email libby@lhpr.uk.com or Suzanne Judge, tel. 07936 410933, email suzanne@lhpr.uk.com.