Mark Allen Group announces plan to acquire Community Care from Reed Business Information

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Mark Allen Group has announced its intention to acquire the UK's leading brand for social work professionals.

MA Education, a part of the Mark Allen Group (MAG), has agreed to purchase *Community Care,* from Reed Business Information (RBI), part of RELX Group.

There are four major elements to this highly respected brand. *Community Care* is first and foremost a digital, subscription-based resource for social workers, through its two platforms: *Community Care Inform Children* and *Community Care Inform Adults*. It provides content and tools to aid professional development and good practice. *Communitycare.co.uk* delivers up-to-date and breaking online news on the social care scene. *Community Care Jobs* is the place social workers turn to when looking at career opportunities. And *Community Care Live* has separate events every year in both London and Manchester, that reinforces and enhances the training needs of care staff.

For Mark Allen himself *Community Care* has come full circle. He was the launch editor in 1974 of what was then a news-orientated and jobs-based magazine. Subsequently, he became the magazine's publisher.

He said: "This really is a dream come true. RBI launched *Community Care* at exactly the right time and it rapidly became a well-respected, award winning and highly profitable magazine. Editing *Community Care* at a young age was a pivotal moment in my career from which I have prospered. I never thought that one day I would own this outstanding brand.

However, this is not for me a sentimental trip down memory lane. *Community Care* is a totally different proposition to what it was when I was the launch editor more than 40 years ago. The *Community Care* team that we will be inheriting has created an amazing online resource, which has plenty of scope for further development."

Chief Executive Officer Ben Allen concurred: "This is a superb opportunity for us. As a major online brand, *Community Care* vastly enhances our digital presence and fits very well with *Children & Young People Now*, which we acquired from Haymarket a few years ago. Two years ago, we bought Optician from RBI and this has proved a major asset for the company."

During the past seven years MAG has been on an extensive acquisition trail which, with recent purchases, will see revenues rise to nearly £45 million at the end of this financial year, net profits approaching £6 million and EBITDA to £8 million.

Community Care is the third acquisition the group has made this year. A few months ago, MAG purchased the largest special educational needs exhibition, *TES SEN Show*, from TES Global Ltd.

In June the company scooped up Unity Media and Unity Exhibitions, which has a number of magazines and a major exhibition, the *RCI Show*, in the built environment.

RBI Managing Director Edward Dimbylow said: "The sale of *Community Care* reflects our continuing strategic priority of focusing on our core subscription-based data and analytics businesses. Mark Allen Group is a great home for *Community Care* and will provide the team and brand with a secure future".

About Mark Allen Group
MAG is a progressive publishing and events business, which owns a diverse portfolio of 85 brands in the healthcare, education, manufacturing, engineering, business-to-business, aviation and leisure sectors. MA Education's portfolio includes *Nursery World* as well as *Children & Young People Now*. MAG currently employs more than 350 staff based across its four offices in Herne Hill, Dartford, Guildford and Wiltshire. MAG's headquartered office is in Herne Hill, London.
www.markallengroup.com

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About Reed Business Information

Reed Business Information provides information, analytics and data to business professionals worldwide. Our strong global products and services hold market-leading positions across a wide range of industry sectors including banking, petrochemicals and aviation where we help customers make key strategic decisions every day. RBI is part of RELX Group, a global provider of information and analytics for professional and business customers across industries.

www.reedbusiness.com

A further announcement will be made after completion.

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