

+ more news

Welcome to our summer newsletter. We hope you find it interesting and helpful.
For more information on any of the matters covered, please get in touch.

Client focus: Bay View Childcare

Grant funding helps secure a brighter future for young people

Securing the funding you need to get your growth plans off the ground can be a difficult and daunting prospect. Loans need to be repaid, after all. Grant funding can make a real difference to the success of the project. In our latest case study we detail how, after securing grant funding, Bay View Childcare has been able to grow the business, create jobs and transform young people.

Growing to meet demand

Bay View Childcare is a specialist provider of residential care places for children and young people who have had a particularly troubling upbringing. The care they provide is shaped by the belief that, with the right support in a comfortable, secure and nurturing environment, children can change the path their lives are taking, and work towards a brighter, more prosperous future.

Bay View Childcare operates two specialist children's homes in the Morecambe and Lancaster areas which are an essential resource for local councils but places are in short supply. To better meet demand, Bay View developed plans to build a third home.

In summer 2017, owner Martin Horner approached RfM Business Consultant Tony Backhouse to discuss the availability of grant funding to facilitate the purchase and redevelopment of a property to increase their provision by an additional four places.



The full application included intelligence gathered from all parties to be involved

A boost to the local economy

Tony was aware of a Rural Development Fund that could potentially be accessed to enable Bay View Childcare to receive grant funding worth 40% of the total project costs, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria. The LEADER Fund, Lot 3, was open for tenders from growing regional businesses who planned development projects that would:

- Create jobs
- Provide a benefit to the local economy

The tendering and awards process was competitive, meaning that funding would be awarded to projects that would create the highest number of jobs and the greatest economic benefit.

Stage 1 in the process was the initial application; a top-line summary of the scope, outline costs and predicted benefits. Tony pulled together the submission to meet the rigorous requirements of this 'filtering' stage.

Costings and projections

The Bay View Childcare development project was deemed eligible to progress to the next stage of the process: the full application. Here, Tony's knowledge and experience of pulling together successful tenders would really come into its own. The full submission outlined the nature and scope of the project, and included intelligence gathered from all parties to be involved, such as architects, construction contractors and project managers. Detailed competitor quotes were also presented.



Perhaps most importantly, the final 22-page tender included detailed projections of the local economic benefit the project would deliver and the number of jobs that would be created.

Results

Bay View Childcare was awarded a grant of almost £180,000 from the LEADER Fund in December 2018 – 40% of the total project cost. The project timeline, from the initial approach to Tony, to receiving news of the grant award, was 18 months. Over the course of that time, the project scope was adjusted to better suit the needs of the local area and planning requirements. The building renovations have begun and the new specialist children's home will provide four much-needed residential places and create a total of 19 jobs.

"This project would not have got off the ground without the help of RfM," commented Martin. "Not only did Tony find the funding, he developed our plans to enable the project to become real. Tony is incredibly hands-on and made sure the application proceeded smoothly despite the usual planning delays."

Tony is delighted to have been able to support Bay View Childcare to make this project happen: "It has been a pleasure working with Bay View Childcare, an excellent local company that is actively helping to improve our society."

Family Businesses



RfM partners with The Family Business Network – Cumbria

We are delighted to reveal that RfM Accountants has become an official partner of The Family Business Network – Cumbria.

The Family Business Network, first established in Cumbria in 2014, has become the voice for family businesses across Cumbria, Lancashire and beyond. The network gives business owners access to a multitude of services and events that both support and celebrate the sector, as well as a safe and trusted environment for peer-to-peer learning.

Sue Howorth, founder of The Family Business Network said, "Many family firms turn to our network for signposting, support and advice. We often look to our partners for their specialist knowledge and expertise and, because of this, they fulfil a vital role."

"We are delighted to welcome RfM Accountants on board. As a highly respected provider in the area, they have great local knowledge and many years of experience with helping family businesses of all sizes and across many industries. We are really looking forward to working with them over the coming months to develop the partnership."

Our offices in Windermere (South Lakes), Ulverston, Barrow and Morecambe all serve the Cumbrian family business community. The staff and partners at all our practices are passionate about supporting family businesses and the important role they play in strengthening the local economies. In addition to the standard accountancy services you expect from your accountant, we can really add value to this thriving sector with our range of additional, specialist services and our expertise in key local industry sectors, including farming and rural business, construction, manufacturing, hospitality and leisure.

In the press release announcing the partnership with the Family Business Network, RfM Partner, Peter Armer said, "Running a family business can feel quite isolating for business owners. Decisions need to be made regularly that have a direct impact on the success of their businesses, which, of course, impacts upon the lives and wellbeing of family members. All staff at RfM understand that we need to be available to our clients when they have questions or need help."

In addition, we are highly proactive in bringing new ideas and services to our clients, such as our new legal service, mortgage service, business consultancy, and a recent development, web and e-commerce services. RfM is rapidly becoming a one-stop shop for family businesses, providing help, support, and guidance."

RfM Partner Paul Newsham commented, "RfM has offices in Windermere, Ulverston and Barrow-in-Furness, and such is our high opinion on the prospects of the Cumbrian economy, we have ambitions to increase our coverage in the county. It is for this reason that we have chosen to join and sponsor the Cumbria Family Business Network, and we are really looking forward to working closely with Sue Howorth and her team."

 **The Family Business Network.**

Running a family business – avoiding common issues

Whilst there are plenty of benefits to working with your relatives, it also brings a unique set of challenges. RfM Partner Peter Armer offers some key advice to overcoming common problems when running a family business.

Talk business

When you have more than work in common, it's easy to focus on personal matters and avoid important business discussions. Set a regular time and place to meet to discuss your business' aims, strategy, financial position and other matters relevant to your success. Set boundaries for when and where you talk business; in the workplace and within working hours is always best.

Take notes

Keep a record of what is discussed and agreed to avoid future disagreements over what was said.

Develop your team

As well as passing on the know-how you've gained over the years, invest in training and professional development for your staff. You will have a more effective team and they will feel more loyalty to an employer who has invested in their future.

Listen to the younger generation

Does your family business cross more than one generation? Chances are the older, more experienced family members have more of a say in how the business is run. Give younger family members a say and you will be rewarded with fresh ideas and insights. For example, they know first-hand the value of embracing digital channels for marketing, having a website and connecting to new audiences with social media.

Think about the future, now

If you want to see your business survive after you are no longer involved, make sure you have a succession plan in place.

Support when you need it

Running a family business can feel very isolating. There are always decisions to be made which will impact both the success of the business and the lives of family members. Having access to advisors who are on hand to help with issues as and when they arise is invaluable.

To arrange a no-obligation meeting to see how RfM could support your family business, contact one of our offices – full details provided on the back page.

Who would look after your affairs if you couldn't?



Who would look after your affairs if you suffered a loss of capacity? Your spouse, a sibling or another person you trust? If you want it to be your decision, you will need a Lasting Power of Attorney.

We are living longer than ever before and the likelihood of losing capacity at some point – whether through dementia, illness or accident – is increasing.

Many people assume that, were they to suffer a loss of capacity, those closest to them could simply step in to make financial or welfare decisions on their behalf. However, this is not the case.

Without Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) in place, the situation is considerably more complicated, and can be physically and emotionally devastating for your loved ones.

The law is designed to protect the vulnerable

When a person is considered to have lost capacity:

- Social Services have a duty to inform financial institutions (Banks, Building Societies and Insurers).
- Financial institutions have a fiduciary responsibility to protect vulnerable clients by freezing assets and preventing any access to funds.
- Joint account holders do not have automatic rights to make financial decisions, access funds or make changes to policies.

Without a Lasting Power of Attorney:

- A Court Deputy would be appointed to look after your financial affairs and make decisions on your behalf. Their responsibility would only be to you and your welfare; they will not be able to take care of those who rely on you or who share your assets.
- You must pay significant fees for the services of a Court Deputy.
- Those closest to you would not have the right to make decisions about your medical treatment and welfare, including whether or not you need long term residential care and where.

When to make Lasting Powers of Attorney

Lasting Powers of Attorney must be made whilst you have full capacity.

Having LPAs in place means that, should you lose capacity in the future, someone you know and trust will be able to control your finances and make decisions about your medical treatment and general welfare.

To arrange a free consultation to discuss Lasting Powers of Attorney call Sharon Rigden on 01772 431233 or email srigden@rfmlegal.co.uk

RfM +more
Legal Services
www.rfmlegal.co.uk

+ more news on our website

We couldn't fit all our news into this newsletter; please visit our website for these stories [+ more](#)



IR35 and the private sector

Controversial rules for contractors are set to cause a real challenge for businesses in the private sector. [Read online](#)



Casual fundraising

Staff at RfM Preston have raised £1000 for Derian House Children's Hospice by dressing down every Friday. [Read online](#)

Please note: RfM is not authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 but, because we are licensed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, we are able to offer a limited range of investment services to clients if they are incidental and / or complementary to, or arise out of, the other professional services we have been engaged to provide. It is our current policy to refer investment business, excluding corporate finance work, to Financial Advisers, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The Financial Adviser will take full responsibility for compliance with the requirements of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

RfM London

Tax specialist John Kavanagh to head up new RfM office

Whilst technology allows us to share our tax and accounting expertise nationally – even globally – sometimes it is simply better to be able to meet with your advisor in person. Our new office in London brings all the benefits of our '+ more' approach to businesses and individuals closer to the capital.

RfM London is headed up by Chartered Tax Advisor John Kavanagh. In a career spanning over 30 years, John worked for HMRC, global consultancy Deloitte and a top 20 accountancy firm before setting up his own independent tax consultancy in 2004. He has spent the last 15 years advising private and business clients, as well as supporting other professional advisers to provide the best possible tax advice to their clients.



John is a true tax specialist who thrives on finding practical and cost-effective solutions to the most complex tax problems.

As well as being a Chartered Tax Adviser, John is a member of the Association of Taxation Technicians and has also been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. John's opinions on tax are highly valued and he has featured regularly in professional titles including Taxation, Tax Journal and the Journal of International Taxation, as well as the specialist website Taxationweb.

RfM London can provide expert advice across the spectrum of UK and international tax, from income tax, capital gains tax, corporation tax and inheritance tax to VAT and Insurance Premium Tax. Clients of the London office can also access the full range of accountancy and business advisory services provided by our network of North West offices.

For further details, please visit the London office page of our website.

AIA temporary increase to £1 million

A temporary increase in the Annual Investment Allowance (AIA) to £1 million announced in the Autumn Budget 2018 is now in effect. The new allowance – five times the previous cap – will benefit businesses investing from £200,000 up to £1 million in new plant and machinery.

The measure is designed to encourage businesses who may have held off buying new plant and machinery – particularly in the current climate of uncertainty – to feel more positive about investment decisions.

Key benefits

The total cost of plant or machinery purchases can be offset against a company's taxable profit for the year.

The AIA is not just for cash purchases; it can be utilised for assets purchased with hire purchase and loans.

What type of expenditure does the AIA cover?

The term 'plant and machinery' actually covers almost every type of asset purchased for business purposes, with the exception of land, buildings and cars.

Typical examples of plant or machinery include commercial vehicles (not cars); manufacturing machinery; computers, office furniture and equipment, building fixtures (such as shop fittings, kitchen and bathroom fittings) and agricultural machinery.

When is the best time to buy equipment?

The best time to make large capital purchases will depend on your company's accounting periods and financial position.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss your future plans to buy plant and equipment. We will also be happy to provide guidance on securing business funding, finance and grants.

Asia calling

Expert support for businesses expanding into Asia

RfM Accountants has partnered with pan-Asia professional services firm, Dezan Shira & Associates, to further strengthen the support we give to clients trading in global markets.

There's never been a better time for British and Irish businesses to expand into Asian markets. That's according to RfM's new international partner in East Asia, Dezan Shira & Associates. And, as an organisation that specialises in supporting businesses to navigate and trade successfully in new and unfamiliar territory, they should know.

Asian countries offer enormous business opportunities to British and Irish investors. Indeed, a respected UK financial services firm has stated that China will become the world's largest economy by 2030, with India in the second spot. The continuing uncertainty around Brexit and how UK businesses will trade in Europe has also led many businesses to consider new markets.

If expansion into international markets is part of your business plan, where should you start? How do you avoid being tripped up by your lack of understanding of the culture and rules? Who can you trust to give you the best advice?

Essential knowledge of local markets

Just as a traveller might ask a local guide to show them around an unfamiliar city, businesses can engage an advisor with expert local knowledge to help make their international investment journey a success. Dezan Shira & Associates (DSA) is a specialist practice that provides a wide range of strategic, tax, legal and accounting services to companies entering, establishing and expanding their operations across East Asia.

DSA already has strong links with the UK and Ireland having assisted over 300 UK and Ireland-based business in China alone. In May 2019, the organisation announced the launch of a dedicated UK and Ireland Desk, led by Head of Development, Maria Kotova.

"The large-consuming population, fast-developing economies, availability of diversified resources, improving infrastructure and growing digital



landscape, among many other factors, make China, India, and ASEAN strategically important partners for UK and Ireland businesses," explains Maria.

"With such a huge range of opportunities – from basic to high-tech industries – it is hard to ignore the region's potential."

Overcoming barriers

The UK and Ireland Desk team comprises a number of British professionals who have lived and worked in Asia for several years and will ensure that any cultural and language barriers are taken care of right from the very beginning.

The Desk will also be assisted by partner and alliance firms, including RfM Accountants, whose role is to provide overall support in the clients' home countries.

"I am delighted to enter into the cooperation agreement with Dezan Shira & Associates," said RfM Partner Paul Newsham. "It allows us to expand our client offering to include access to expert international advice and is in keeping with our firm's philosophy of '+ more'.

"DSA have offices across East Asia as well as liaison offices in Germany, Spain, Russia and the United States and we can help our clients access support from any of these offices. Similarly, if an international client is expanding into the UK, we can provide them with the local expertise they need to get set up and running."

To arrange a meeting to discuss your plans for expansion into Asia or other global markets, call Paul Newsham on 01772 431233 or email pnewsham@rfm-more.co.uk

RfM

Accountants + more

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