



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leading social enterprise bucks trend of troubled economy P3 merges with Kilburn Youth Centre and Unique

P3, a social enterprise that tackles social exclusion and homelessness, today announces it has successfully completed mergers with Kilburn Youth Centre (KYC) and Unique, another social enterprise.

Martin Kinsella, chief executive of P3 and Social Enterprise Ambassador said:

"Mergers are more often associated with the private sector so it is exciting to see this kind of growth among social enterprises which people often assume are always small businesses. At a time when most businesses are worrying about the credit crunch, it's particularly exciting to be approaching a £7 million per annum turnover.

"Increasing our scale not only puts us in a stronger position to provide more services for the local community but it reassures local commissioners that we have the scale to deliver on big contracts. We are increasingly able to compete with the big private providers and this can only be a good thing. Because we have social aims at the heart of what we do we know we deliver more."

"P3 is thrilled to be growing through mergers with KYC and Unique. These two organisations have always put young people at the heart of what they have done and we know this growth expertise will help us to act on our belief that young people need somewhere to go, something to do and somebody to be with. We are in the business of making that happen, and we will continue to work with the young people of Kilburn and Newark to develop the services they tell us they want and need."

Maureen Baker, Service Manager of the Kilburn Youth Centre added:

"We welcome our merger with P3. They have embraced the staff team with a genuine openness and honesty about what our expectations should be once we are fully embedded into their existing structure. It has been a smooth ride so far and it is generally felt that the services provided by each organization will compliment each other well."

P3 is a leading provider of services for young people across London and the Midlands. The mergers with KYC and Unique builds on these existing structures and expands what P3 is doing to fight social exclusion and homelessness among young people.



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Notes to editors

P3 exists to operate services and create opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It offers routes out of social exclusion and homelessness by providing a wide range of services including supported housing, hostels, link worker schemes and community support projects. Since 2002, P3 has grown from an organisation with an £800k turnover into an almost £7 million per annum, expanding social enterprise.

KYC is the largest voluntary youth services provider in north-west London, with a £625K turnover last year. Founded in 2000, it has worked with over 8,000 young people. KYC provides a large programme of services to under-25s, including advice and information, health projects and accredited learning programmes.

Unique opened in January 2000 as a youth charity, rapidly developing into a multi-award winning social enterprise, employing 22 full time staff across two sites. Unique operates a diverse range of innovative social enterprises including a highly successful Alternative Education programme and drop-in youth Coffee Bar (an independent Youth Project which includes young people at the core of decision making). Unique Coffee Bar receives around 14,000 visits per year and many local people credit the centre with helping reduce anti-social behavior and improve community relations.

Martin Kinsella is one of England's Social Enterprise Ambassadors. The ambassadors are a group of inspiring social entrepreneurs who are raising awareness about social enterprise through events, interviews, blogs and other means. The programme is funded by the Cabinet Office and led by the Social Enterprise Coalition. www.socialenterpriseambassadors.org.

Social enterprises are dynamic and sustainable businesses with social and environmental aims. Well known examples include The Big Issue, Cafédirect and Jamie Oliver's Fifteen, but there are many other social enterprises operating in a wide range of industries from farmers markets and recycling companies to transport and childcare providers.