

**PRESS INFORMATION****EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 27 SEPTEMBER 2011****HEALTH ECONOMIST NAMES HIS TWENTY INDEPENDENT COMPANIES TO WATCH**

As the role of independent healthcare providers grows ever stronger, and the prospect of greater outsourcing of services becomes a reality in the ongoing NHS reform programme, the chief executive of healthcare intelligence provider **Laing & Buisson** has published a list of the twenty most important providers operating in UK healthcare today.

*Laing's Healthcare 20*, a new report from respected healthcare expert William Laing, aims to do for independent health providers what the annual *Sunday Times FastTrack 100* and *BuyoutTrack 100* lists achieve across UK industry.

For many years **Laing & Buisson** has kept a watch on the evolution and progress of the independent healthcare sector, giving it a unique insight on the best providers operating in a wide range of specialism in both acute and social care. Amidst changes in the political and social landscape, companies from both the private and voluntary sectors are becoming ever more important to the delivery of first class services and as such Mr Laing hopes that *Laing's Healthcare 20* will be held up as a go-to-guide of the most interesting and exciting companies presently working in this vibrant sector.

The healthcare consultant and sector specialist marked companies against criteria including a review of recent financial performance; evidence of innovative thinking and the quality of their staff relationships. Having worked with the Department of Health and organisations such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and with his own portfolio of best-selling market reports covering acute care, private dentistry, homecare and extra care to name just a few, Mr Laing worked in association with healthcare investment expert MedicX to draw up a final list of providers deserving of a place in *Laing's Healthcare 20*.

Services delivered by the names on this inaugural list range from acute hospitals to mental health specialist care to homecare for the elderly. Ownership of these companies covers the full spectrum from founder-owners to private equity backed entities.

The report - available now as a free download from the **Laing & Buisson** website - ranks a first, second and third place, with one highly commended provider, while listing the remaining 16 leading lights of UK health in alphabetical order.

Coming out at the head of the list was specialist supported living provider Lifeways Group.

Headed by chief executive Paul Marriner, Lifeways has offices throughout Britain, over 5,000 employees and holds contracts with more than 100 local authorities. With the support of private equality backer August Equity, Mr Laing said that this provider has 'rapidly become a force to be reckoned with, where both organic and acquisitive growth are twinned with a keen determination to work well with commissioners and end users alike'.

Taking second place in *Laing's Healthcare 20* was the all-encompassing Care UK - a company which operates in acute care via its Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services (CATS); elderly care through a network of residential and nursing facilities; mental health in both residential facilities and specialist in-prison centres.

Third place was taken by the high-end residential care provider Barchester, a provider which has a 20 year record of sustained growth and profitability and has persistently shown an eagerness to innovate.

The not-for-profit elderly care specialist Methodist Homes (MHA) was given a highly commended rating in recognition of significant growth and its spearheading of new models in the elderly care sector.

The remaining companies in *Laing's Healthcare 20* (in alphabetical order) are: Allied Healthcare; Aspen healthcare; Bupa Cromwell Hospital; Carewatch Care Services; Circle; City & County Healthcare Group; Four Seasons Health Care; General Healthcare Group; Mears Group; Nuffield Health; Partnerships in Care; Priory Group; Ramsay Healthcare; Runwood Group Ltd; St Andrew's Healthcare and Spire Healthcare.

As well as naming these top performers, the full report offers company profiles explaining what makes each of them stand above other providers in their field as well as giving a list of headline statistics including chief executive, finance director, portfolio and most recent turnover.

Commenting on why he chose this time to put together *Laing's Healthcare 20*, Mr Laing said:

'The role of independent providers operating in the UK healthcare scene has grown massively in recent years, and however the controversial Health and Social Care Bill proceeds, the country's health environment is set on a path upon which we'll see a growing range of services provided by the best performing companies from the private, voluntary and social enterprise spheres.'

Heralding the report as a 'new first class honour' in healthcare, MedicX chief executive officer Mike Adams added:

'During the course of the last five years MedicX has continually been at the forefront of healthcare property investment and development and in partnership with Laing & Buisson, MedicX is proud to have helped produce what is clearly *the* list of 2011 and one which will showcase companies which are leading the way in UK healthcare.'

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*Laing's Healthcare 20 was launched at the Laing & Buisson Independent Healthcare Awards 2011 on 20 September 2011 at the London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square.*

Produced in association with:



The companies featured in the first edition of *Laing's Healthcare 20* are:

**Top Three:** Lifeways Group  
Care UK  
Barchester

**Highly Commended:** Methodist Homes

**Remaining  
(in alphabetical order):** Allied Healthcare  
Aspen healthcare  
Bupa Cromwell Hospital  
Carewatch Care Services  
Circle  
City & County Healthcare Group  
Four Seasons Health Care  
General Healthcare Group  
Mears Group  
Nuffield Health  
Partnerships in Care  
Priory Group  
Ramsay Healthcare  
Runwood Group Ltd  
St Andrew's Healthcare

A free PDF of the full report is available from the Laing & Buisson [website](#)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

Founded by William Laing in 1986, Laing & Buisson is the UK's leading provider of information and market intelligence on the independent health, community care and childcare sectors.

Laing & Buisson offers a uniquely focused range of expert services to providers, purchasers and investors in the health and community care markets. Information about the range of products and services provided is summarised below.

**Market Reports & Annual Directories:** Laing & Buisson publishes a series of special market reports and directories on the health and community care sectors. The research and conclusions within the reports are frequently cited in parliamentary questions and answers, official documents and company prospectuses, and are regularly drawn upon by the national media.

**Events:** In addition to one-off conferences on subjects selected for their special interest or topicality, Laing & Buisson's annual programme features a series of conferences on specific areas including long term care for the older people, learning disabilities and mental health, acute healthcare, insurance and children's nurseries. The Independent Healthcare Forum consists of two major conferences: the acute healthcare conference and the mental health conference and a workshop for private patient units. The Independent Specialist Care Awards and the Independent Healthcare Awards take place in March and September, highlighting the range of achievements and recognising best practice within the sectors.

**Newsletters:** Laing & Buisson publishes two authoritative monthly newsletters - *Community Care Market News*, which covers the long-term care sector and *Healthcare Market News*, which covers the acute healthcare sector.

**CareSearch and Health & Care Data:** *CareSearch* is Laing & Buisson's flagship data product, a 'one stop shop' with extremely flexible search facilities for those needing detailed, reliable and up-to-date information on care homes, care home groups, independent healthcare establishments, care commissioners, PCTs and inspection and registration agencies for the whole of the UK. Further to this, details of group operators, their holdings and financial information from statutory accounts offer subscribers an invaluable resource. Alternatively, individual data sets are available to supply as csv files by email. In addition to the data included on *CareSearch* being available to purchase separately, home care agencies and groups can also be supplied.

**Consultancy and Market Intelligence:** Market intelligence and consultancy work, focusing on non-clinical aspects of health and social care markets, is tailor-made for companies with an active interest in the sector. Examples of recent work include a report on the future of the independent healthcare sector for the Healthcare Commission, the seminal work conducted by Laing & Buisson on *A Fair Price for Care* for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and *Improving Lives - Improving Life*, a report on the key strategic issues facing the long term care sector. Laing & Buisson also frequently assists investors in market due diligence work in the health and care sectors.