

## PRESS INFORMATION

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### MENCAP ANNOUNCES CHARITY PARTNERSHIP AS VOTES ALL IN FOR ISCA 2012 WINNERS

The judges have spoken and the votes are in for the 2012 Independent Specialist Care Awards (ISCAs) which, in this its second year, is pleased to welcome on board the UK's leading voice of learning disability, Mencap, as its charity partner.

Hosted by healthcare market intelligence provider Laing & Buisson, the ISCAs awards programme recognises independent sector care providers which excel in offering choice, safety and the highest standards in the support of a wide range of vulnerable clients.

Over 50 companies were shortlisted in this year's awards scheme, but just 15 can walk away with accolades which acknowledge prowess in categories including Homecare, Supported Living, Personalisation, Best Commissioner and Innovation.

Well-respected figures from the world of UK care have served as judges in this year's event including Lord Victor Adebawale, the Department of Health's mental health tsar Bruce Calderwood and his NHS counterpart Steve Shrubbs, chief executive of the English Community Care Association (ECCA) Martin Green and head of the new elderly care group HC-One Dr Chai Patel. With this level of expertise involved the companies which are named at the awards ceremony on 15 March were involved in a rigorous judging process - making these companies the sure fire ones to watch in 2012 and beyond.

Commenting on this year's entrants, Laing & Buisson operations director Justin Merritt said:

'The standards seen in this year's entries have made judging an especially difficult process. However, it's a wonderful sign that despite a particularly tough year in terms of commissioning and government spending cuts, there are many many companies out there giving it their all to ensure standards remain sky-high.'

Speaking about its role as the event's charity partner, Mencap chief executive Mark Goldring added:

'We are delighted to be the charity partner for this year's ISCAs. Mencap supports thousands of people with a learning disability in all areas of their lives including housing, employment, community, leisure, and education, so we recognise the importance of recognising excellence in care for more vulnerable people.'

Winners of the 2012 awards will be announced at the London Marriott Hotel Grosvenor Square with special guest host Ruby Wax heading up the celebrations.

Table bookings are now being taken. To ensure your place at the biggest specialist care event of the year telephone Laing & Buisson on 020 7841 0045 or visit [www.laingbuisson.co.uk](http://www.laingbuisson.co.uk)

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*The Independent Specialist Care Awards (ISCAs) is an annual event, organised by healthcare market intelligence provider Laing & Buisson, as a partner to its long established Independent Healthcare Awards. The 2012 event is sponsored by The Lifeways Group, Knight Frank, Runwood Homes and Sovereign Capital. The English Community Care Association (ECCA) supports the ISCAs 2012 and learning disability charity Mencap is this year's charity partner.*



LAING & BUISSON

## Independent Specialist Care Awards 2012

15 March 2012

supported by



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### About Mencap

There are 1.5 million people with a learning disability in the UK. Mencap works to support people with a learning disability and their families and carers by fighting to change laws and improve services and access to education, employment and leisure facilities. Mencap supports thousands of people with a learning disability to live their lives the way they want.

Mencap are also one of the largest service providers of services, information and advice for people with a learning disability across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. People with a learning disability and their carers can find out more about our services by calling Mencap Direct on 0300 333 111 or by visiting [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Rachel Harper  
Conferences & Awards Director  
Laing & Buisson  
Tel: 020 7923 5344  
[rachel@laingbuisson.co.uk](mailto:rachel@laingbuisson.co.uk)

Justin Merritt  
Operations Director  
Laing & Buisson  
Tel: 0207 841 0049  
[justin@laingbuisson.co.uk](mailto:justin@laingbuisson.co.uk)

### 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.

#### Conferences & Awards

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: definitive events covering key developments and leading edge practice in specific areas including homecare, supported living, extra care housing, long term care for the older people, learning disabilities and mental health sectors, acute healthcare, private healthcare insurance, investing in healthcare 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 and smaller providers, with an exhibition area representing a selection of providers to the sector. 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, and paying tribute to those who have demonstrated excellence in their particular fields.

#### Market Reports & Annual Directories

Laing & Buisson publishes a series of special market reports and directories on the health and community care sectors. Annual publications include Laing's Healthcare Market Review, Long Term Care: Directory of Major Providers, and the Care of Elderly People Market Survey. 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.

#### 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. Subscribers receive ten issues per year covering the latest events in those sectors alongside detailed analysis, special features and in-depth interviews. They can also access these stories in an online archive of news coverage which dates back well over ten years.

#### 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 & 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.