

NewSLEtter

for Shared Services

Issue No: 6

Date: 17 September 2013

I write this at the start of my fourth week and I definitely feel like I've hit the ground running with lots going on since my arrival. We reached a significant milestone last Friday when there was a special meeting of the SLE Executive Board and during which final approval was given for the company name and brand. You can see the result below and I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about this.

CoSocius 

The decision over a company name is important and needs to take account of many factors, not least the views of the existing staff as well as the practicalities over availability of names at Companies House, web domain names etc. Many of you will know that the word 'socius' was offered up as a potential name by Cheshire Shared Services staff and all along this has been a favoured name by the majority of people that we have engaged with. However, on its own, the word is already in use and therefore the marketing team worked up various options that incorporated this word such as SociusPro as well as the alternative proposal for Cornerstone Connect. Having had further discussion on the proposals it was felt that maintaining Socius in the name, which means 'shared, partner or ally' in latin, was preferred. The option of using the addition of 'Pro' was debated at length and a new proposal for the use of 'Co' rather than 'Pro' was tabled last week. The context was to emphasise the collaborative approach and this led to the final decision on CoSocius. I hope you will all agree that the name is only part of the story, what is more important in building a business and its brand is the quality and value of the service provision and the attitude of the people in the business. To that end, we are ahead of the game as the Shared Service staff are already providing an excellent service, as has been recognised in many of the accolades and awards that have been gained over the past few years. I hope that you now join me in embracing the new name and between us we can build a new brand that will become synonymous in providing best in class business.

Floor Walks

It was good to meet more of you during the recent floor walks and to listen to the questions and issues raised as we move forward with the transition work for the new company. The list of questions is on our SharePoint site for you all to read and we will ensure that the answers are posted alongside these as well. Unsurprisingly perhaps, there were quite a few questions relating to terms and conditions and TUPE as well as number of queries on the future business and its target market. I hope that our answers provided you with some clarity on these issues and we will of course continue to provide plenty of updates through the various communication channels. There will also be time at the forthcoming conference for a question and answer session.

Staff Conference – Monday 30 September

We now have an outline programme for the two half day events to which every member of staff is invited. I will talk a little about our future vision; we will hear views from our two shareholders and customers on their expectations and we hope to have a speaker who has very recent experience of taking a council led service through a similar process. John Callan will be talking you through the key timelines and activity that will take place as we move forward into 'shadow mode' and we will also host a question and answer session. Justin Williams and Michele Sutton have kindly agreed to be our M.C.s for the event, although at the moment we're negotiating with Justin as to how much singing we will allow between presentations! Please make every effort to attend one of these sessions and watch out for more details that will be published shortly. We will also be organising another event later in the year once the Board of Directors is properly established in order introduce the Board members to you all.

Best Regards

Dominic Whelan