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Learning company opens offices

Oct 6 2010

by Sion Barry, Western Mail

THE Healthcare Learning Company, which has received equity investment from WestBridge, has opened new offices at the Medi-Centre in Cardiff.

HLC, which trades as Smile-On, began its work with Cardiff University six years ago by setting up a learning programme targeted at prison officers with Professor Stephen Roll-nick.

The company has since developed a "performance in practice" programme aimed at improving GP and patient relationships.

It has also created a website for the Welsh Assembly Government to help employers, employees and health professionals to improve health at work, prevent ill health and to support return to work following ill health.

In 2007 HLC was awarded the Cardiff Innovation Award by Cardiff University for its creative approach to improving healthcare services.

WestBridge, the [UK](#) SME investor with its head office in Cardiff, invested £200,000 in HLC in November 2008.

WestBridge, which also has offices in Reading, announced the first close of its targeted £50m SME Fund in the summer.

Valerie Kendall, director at WestBridge, said: "We invested in HLC as we recognised the significant opportunities that exist for this niche company to expand into additional markets.

"The management team of HLC have orchestrated an impressive growth plan since we invested, and we expect to deliver an attractive return to investors when the investment is ultimately realised."

