

# **Broadstone Group Acquires CS Financial Services to Drive Continuing Growth in the Employee Benefits Market**

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Broadstone Group, one of the UK's fastest growing employee benefits and pensions consultants and independent trustee business, has announced the acquisition of Liverpool-based CS Financial Solutions (CSFS) including CS Trustees. The acquisition is another significant step for Broadstone as it strengthens and extends its competitive offering in the employee benefits consulting sector.

CSFS, a specialist employee benefits consultancy, will become a fully integrated part of the Broadstone Group and will help serve the combined group's burgeoning client base across the UK and internationally, through the Assurex Global network. The acquisition brings the number of Broadstone regional UK offices to six with other locations in London, Manchester, Sheffield, Nottingham and Falkirk.

Commenting on the announcement, Broadstone Group CEO, Grant Stobart, said: "This is an exciting acquisition for us and brings additional capabilities and additional experienced staff and scale that will help ensure that we remain truly competitive in the provision of innovative employee benefits solutions in a competitive market that is seeing significant consolidation. We now have over 200 professionals serving more than a thousand clients across the UK.

"With the full backing of our private equity parent, Livingbridge, 2019 looks to be a year of strong organic and acquisitive growth for Broadstone as we actively pursue further acquisitions that share our cultural values and complement our expertise and service."

By adding further talent and geographical reach and scale, Broadstone has underlined its stated intent to support both its larger clients and the UK wide SME sector that is often poorly serviced by the larger consultancies.

Paul McGuckin, CEO at CSFS, is understandably delighted at the opportunities the acquisition offers. "Being an integral part of a larger, innovative organisation with ambitious growth plans and the resources to deliver will mean that we can continue to offer our clients the very best product solutions and service. For our staff it means that they can benefit from the significant career and development opportunities that come with working for a market leading organisation."

Xavier Woodward, from Broadstone's private equity parent, Livingbridge, said: "We are delighted to welcome CS Financial Solutions to Broadstone with the two businesses not only enjoying strong product cohesion but also a natural cultural fit with client satisfaction at the heart of the services they offer. This is an exciting next step for Broadstone following its acquisition of Mitchell Consulting and 2020 Trustees and we look forward to seeing the business further deliver on its M&A ambitions in the year ahead."

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For more information on the acquisition, corporate information on Broadstone or CS Financial Solutions,

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