

PDS (CNC) ENGINEERING LTD, NELSON

MEMBERS OF EAST LANCASHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



UK BUSINESS HEROES
RECOGNISING BUSINESSES.
ONE STORY AT A TIME

Linking businesses across the region to support the NHS

PDS (CNC) Engineering Ltd is a leading East Lancashire engineering firm and, in common with many other businesses across the country, they have been significantly affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. They had to furlough some staff and needed to set up separate 'employee bubbles' for those who were still working, in order to continue production. They were also responding to the government's nationwide call for ventilator supplies.

The business is led by Managing Director Annette Weekes, who personally embarked on a new challenge. Alongside PDS Engineering, working in partnership with East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, she set up a new COVID-19 manufacturing cluster for the Lancashire and South Cumbria region.

She enlisted the support of a wide group of manufacturers across Lancashire, alongside NHS organisations including the Health Innovation Campus at Lancaster University, and Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Trusts.

Annette and her new team built an online portal at speed, within 48 hours, and populated it with a comprehensive list of items urgently needed by the NHS. It provided a gateway for local manufacturers to list their products and types of manufacturing skills on offer and match them to the known and emerging needs from the NHS. The portal directly linked manufacturing capability and expertise with NHS staff across the region.

While running a business, taking care of her staff and (of course!) her family, Annette single-handedly pulled together the COVID-19 cluster across the county and secured the buy-in and very practical support of a range of businesses.

(cont...)

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This initiative will continue beyond the pandemic, creating an ongoing procurement route from the region's manufacturers to Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS.

"What a fantastic surprise! National recognition for our whole PDS team of Heroes. Many thanks to East Lancashire Chamber for the nomination and support."

Annette Weekes, Managing Director
PDS CNC Engineering Limited

"PDS CNC Engineering Limited were first off the blocks, building covid19cluster.co.uk in 48 hours to bring a call to arms for Lancashire & Cumbria manufacturers in support of our NHS."

Miranda Barker, CEO
East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce