

BUSINESS MONTHLY IN ASSOCIATION WITH DONCASTER CHAMBER

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Co-op plans to create 250 new jobs in area

The Co-op has announced plans to create 250 jobs in Yorkshire by investing more than £11m in new stores and funeral homes across the region.

The company, which already has 320 food stores and 94 funeral homes across the county employing around 6,800 people, plans to open up to 15 new shops, and refit 10 between now and this time next year.

In that time, it will also open a further 10 funeral homes, Richard Pennycook, the Co-op's chief executive said. Specific details of where the stores will be have not yet been revealed.

Mr Pennycook said: "We are looking forward to adding to our already significant portfolio of stores and funeral homes." Last year, the Co-op launched a local supplier initiative which led to community retailers stocking 130 products



Richard Pennycook.

made across the county. The Co-op has signed up more than 50 local manufacturers and micro producers to provide its stores across Yorkshire with a wide range of locally produced items including eggs, bakery items, ice cream and chutneys. The local sourcing initiative is a pilot in Yorkshire, but if it proves successful it will be rolled out nationwide.

ANNIVERSARY BBQ and night at the races invite

Business leaders are welcome to attend a summer barbecue to help celebrate Doncaster Chamber's 75th birthday. The event will be held at Doncaster Racecourse on June 3 between 4.30pm and 9.30pm.

It costs £7.50 for chamber members to attend and £15 for non-members. For tickets call 01302 640100.

NETWORKING Chance to make new contacts

Doncaster business leaders are invited to attend a Sheffield City Region breakfast networking session. The event will take place at Tankersley Manor, Church Lane, Tankersley, on June 7 from 7.30am to 9.30am. It costs £13.95 for members to attend and £20.95 for non-members. Contact 01302 640132.

BUSINESS: FREDERIKA APPEALING FOR VOTES

Pleas for help pitching idea to Sir Richard

By LEE PEACE
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Businesswoman Frederika Roberts is calling on her fellow residents in Doncaster to help her win financial, PR and mentoring support from Sir Richard Branson as part of a national competition.



Frederika Roberts.

The Virgin Media Business VOOM 2016 relies on public votes to shortlist the UK and Ireland's most exciting entrepreneurs, and 44-year-old Frederika believes her company Resilience Well-being Success has the idea to impress the public.

It is described as a social and emotional learning programme that helps school children to improve their mental health, social skills and confidence through team building and specific tasks. The programme runs in primary schools for up to 11 weeks.

It was founded by laughter yoga leader Frederika, triple Paralympic medallist Elizabeth Wright and double blood cancer survivor Jayne Snell.

In a recent survey, the RWS programme was rated as 'outstanding' or 'good' by 100 per cent of teachers, 97 per cent of pupils and 93 per cent of parents.

Frederika said: "Children's mental health is in a state of crisis. One in 10 children aged five to 16 - that's equivalent to three in every classroom - in England has a mental health problem and over half of mental ill health starts before the age of 14.

"I believe the answer lies in prevention and I need Doncaster residents to vote for our pitch at www.bit.ly/RWSVoom in order to help us help more children."

RWS is one of scores of projects from across the country to submit an appli-

'I need Doncaster residents to vote for our pitch in order for us to help more children'

cation to the VOOM competition in a bid to win a share of £1 million in prizes - as well as pitching their business plans to the man himself.

If chosen by a panel of judges, they will go on to compete in a 'pitchathlon' in front of Richard Branson before hopefully making it to a live finale in London on June 28.

In addition to supporting individual businesses, votes could also result in Virgin Media Business crowning Doncaster as Britain's most entrepreneurial town.

Peter Kelly, managing director of Virgin Media Business, said: "We're in

the business of accelerating great ideas and boosting local businesses.

"Whether that's by helping the UK's entrepreneurs access superfast broadband, or by establishing the country's most exciting pitch competition, we're proud to be helping small businesses succeed."

Sir Richard said: "Virgin Media Business's VOOM 2016 provides the golden ticket to propel your business onto a global stage and fast-track your way to success. Last year's winners are testament to this. Launching a new business or going it alone takes dedication and determination, if you've got that in spades then grab this life-changing opportunity. With all of the support and advice available throughout the competition - and the chance to raise some funds if you campaign hard enough - what have you got to lose?"

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