

Iris Care Group scales through transformational acquisition

Second place

Iris Care, formed from the merger of Holmleigh Care and Ludlow Street Healthcare almost two years ago, has appointed a new CEO to lead the next stage of its growth

Iris Care Group is the second-best performer in this year's Alantra Specialist Care Fast 50 report – and the only specialist in mental health and neurorehabilitation to make the top 10 in the rankings. With a CAGR of 99.8% over the past two years, the business has grown remarkably quickly since completing a transformative deal.

Now the largest independent health and social care provider in the South West of England and South Wales, Iris Care was launched in May 2023 via a merger of two businesses, Holmleigh Care and Ludlow Street Healthcare. The business is backed by the infrastructure investor Ancala Partners, which first invested in platform Holmleigh in 2023. The combined group now has almost 1,700 staff who support almost 450 individuals across more than 50 sites.

In January 2025, the business announced the appointment of Dr Andrew Jones as its new Chief Executive Officer. Dr Jones was formerly the Head of Healthcare Asia at the investment firm Aurelius and has also served as UK CEO and Global Chief Growth Officer at the Australian international healthcare group Ramsey Health Care. He will now oversee the next stage of Iris Care's development, with Ancala continuing to support the business's organic growth.

99.8%

CAGR

"My primary goal as CEO will be to grow and develop more essential services in this under-resourced sector, whilst maintaining our quality-of-care ethos and continuing to ensure staff feel valued and respected," Dr Jones said on his appointment.

Peter Kinsey, who oversaw Iris Care as interim CEO in the wake of the merger between Holmleigh and Ludlow Street, remains at the business as chairman. "With the merger now successfully completed, Andy's track record of delivering enhancements at the helm of leading healthcare businesses made him the perfect choice to drive Iris Care Group's future development and growth plans," he said.

Iris Care continues to work closely with commissioning bodies to identify opportunities across its geographic strongholds; more specifically developing out its integrated care solutions to provide full pathways for individuals with learning disabilities, Autism, mental health issues and personality disorder, along with neurodegenerative conditions and acquired brain injuries.