



# Mission Right

'Let's make the right choice'

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Cleaning & Security Solutions for Business

## CONNECT WEEKLY

### HEART TO HEART with the EDITOR



**Name: Sinéad Woods**

**Role: Training and Organisational Development Manager**

#### *Sinéad Woods - What is your Story?*

##### *Tell us about your career path so far?*

*When I left school, I studied Irish and Music in Saint Patrick's College, Drumcondra with the view of becoming a teacher. Unfortunately, when I graduated in 2011 the recession had hit Ireland making it very difficult to obtain the necessary teaching experience required to secure a place on the H-DIP. Having to rethink my career path, I joined Lidl Ireland in 2011 on the Retail Management Degree Programme (RMDP). This was a three-year programme which involved working in Store Operations, progressing from a Customer Assistant to Deputy Store Manager, whilst studying Retail Management. I graduated in 2014 and I was delighted to secure a full-time position as Deputy Store Manager in the Mullingar, Westmeath Store for 6 months.*

##### *Where did your interest in Learning and Development come from?*

Whilst working in the Lidl Stores, I received lots of training, guidance & support. Opportunities arose that helped fast track my career through taking part in store openings, warehouse sales, and weekly training sessions in the regional office. I believe that training had a massive impact on my career and helped me get to where I am today.



##### *Share with us the steps taken to move from Operations to Learning & Development, becoming the person you are today?*

In early 2015 I took the leap from Operations into Learning & Development taking up the position of Junior Project Manager in the Learning & Development Department. My role involved managing the actual RMDP which I had graduated from six months previously. From there, I moved to the Newbridge Region as Training Support Manager with a shared responsibility for Training and Development of 1,300 employees. At this point I had seen L&D from both sides; I had been the Trainee and the Trainer!





## CONNECT WEEKLY

*What is the motto you live by?  
"Take the opportunity to learn  
something new today, so you can  
be better than you were  
yesterday"*

### ***What legacy would you like to leave behind?***

That the people who I have trained and supported feel they are valued, their role is important and they are not "Just a Supervisor". To feel I have impacted another person's career is an honour, in the same way that the Lidl Managers impacted my career; I now hope I am doing for others.

### ***What is your favourite Holiday destination?***

I love Perth as I have visited twice already and I felt like staying longer. I also like Torremolinos, Spain. A little closer to home!

### ***As Training and Organisational Development Manager who has received recognition in Awards over a four-year period, what are the key achievements you are most proud of in your time with Momentum Support?***

There are so many things I am proud of since joining Momentum Support in July 2017. In the first year we introduced role profiles, performance appraisal system and soft skills training. In October 2017, Ian Anderson asked me to take part in the first annual conference to introduce the new Learning and Development Department. I was very nervous.... There were some people at the conference I had never met and here I was standing on stage speaking in front of 80 plus Managers. Another proud moment was in 2018 when we won the Training Award in the ICCA Awards. To be recognised for what we had achieved over a fifteen-month period was beyond expectation. Another time that stands out for me was when the Team travelled to London for the Kimberley Clarke Golden Service Awards in 2020. We received the Highly Commended Award in the Training Category. I remember getting on the plane thinking I'll be back! Upon reflection it was a bitter sweet day as we came so close to a WIN. This drove me further! Finally Winning the Training Award in 2022. We did it!!

### ***On a personal note, I hear congratulation are in order. You had a very special day during the Covid 19 World Pandemic.***

Thank you! Yes, I was a Covid Bride! I was one of the lucky ones who did not need to postpone or change the date. That didn't mean it wasn't stressful. The restrictions meant our numbers were cut from 100 to 50 guests. The week before the wedding our numbers were cut from 50 to 25; I was devastated. My husband and I have two big families and I couldn't imagine them not all being there. We were fortunate that the Wedding booked for the following day to ours was cancelled, so we took that day too!! We had a wedding for 25 on the Thursday and another 25 on the Friday. So, one could say I got married twice, to the same man, in the same dress, two days in a row!!

