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PRESS RELEASE

GOING OVER THE EDGE TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE STROKE ASSOCIATION

Four brave members of staff from Chevin dared to abseil 120ft down the Leeds University Civic Quarter building over the Easter holiday to raise money for the Stroke Association. The event which was open to everyone to take part was organised by the Stroke Association led by a fully qualified, professional abseil team.

Matt, John, Liz and Beth volunteered to have a go and joined over 200 people taking part in the event over a 2 day period, stepping over the edge, walking down the building and landing thankfully safely with their feet on the ground.

Liz said "It was a great day, the atmosphere was fantastic with lots of support from the organisers and other people taking part. I have to admit it was a bit scary at the top going over the wall but once over and walking down the wall the views were breathtaking and the adrenaline kept me going to the bottom!".

John said "We had fun experiencing something we have never done before and raised money at the same time for a worthwhile charity. Chevin sponsored us as well as our family and friends and between the four of us we managed to raise £1060.00 for the Stroke Association which is fantastic".

Chevin staff take part in various fundraising activities throughout the year raising money for local and national charities.

Ends

Note to editors

Background to Chevin Housing Group

The Chevin Housing Group was formed in 2001 following the merger of a number of associations who had been in operation from as far back as 1974. The current group consists of Chevin Housing Association Ltd and Harewood Housing Society Ltd. Chevin, the parent company owns, manages and maintains the Group's rented homes and Harewood manages and maintains the Group's leasehold properties and also provides a management service to private sector leaseholders.

The vision for the Chevin Group is, 'building a better future for people and communities'. In order to achieve this we are involved in a diverse range of activities. These include; managing and maintaining rented and leasehold homes, the development of new and refurbished homes (including rented, leasehold and sale options) and regeneration services, working in partnership with local people to enable them to play a part in the future of their neighbourhoods.

The Group operates across Yorkshire and the Humber and North Nottinghamshire, with around 6,000 rented homes in management. We also manage a further 1650 leasehold homes which include 750 private sector flats.

The Group's reinvestment programme is around £6m per annum and the Development Programme is producing around 250 new homes each year. In 2004 the Group formed the Synergy partnership which is a regional based development partnership of associations with Chevin Housing Group as the lead partner for delivery. Synergy Housing Solutions Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Chevin provides a development service to the Synergy partners.

An inspection carried out by the Audit Commission in 2006 determined that Chevin provides a good 2 star service with promising prospects for improvement. The report commented that, 'Chevin is a customer focussed organisation, which develops services based on customer feedback'.

The Group employs around 200 staff headed by the Group Chief Executive, Steve Close.