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PRESS RELEASE

COME ON, DO IT YOURSELF!

A pilot project to teach local people vital DIY skills has been launched on Preston Road.

The scheme teaches residents skills such as tiling, wall papering, joinery, bricklaying and plastering in a bid to help them feel more confident in carrying out tasks in their own home.

Funded by Chevin Housing Association Ltd, Gateway and the Housing Corporation the project consists of six, two hour sessions over a 10 week period. The first session was held during June 2008. The project is being delivered by Southdale Homes, Chevin Housing Association Ltd and Metshape Ltd.

Janet Whipps, Chief Executive for Gateway said: "This is a really interesting project which will help to teach local people new skills. This is just one way that Gateway is working with its partners to benefit the community. "

Faye Reading, Community Planning Officer at Chevin Housing Association said: "Chevin are looking forward to delivering this project on Preston Road. Residents have expressed a real interest in learning these skills which will benefit them and help them to save money. I'm sure it will be a great success."

Gateway and Chevin Housing Association are delivering a multi million pound regeneration scheme on Preston Road which aims to improve the quality and choice of housing on offer. 107 new homes are already completed on the Ellerby Grove development with residents enjoying the comforts of new, energy efficient 'eco' homes.

To find out more about the workshops and how you can get involved please contact Faye Reading from Chevin Housing Association on 01482 702032.

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Notes to Editors

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.

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.

Gateway

Gateway is one of nine housing market renewal Pathfinders established by the government in 2003 to revitalise neighbourhoods in parts of the North and Midlands where demand for housing is weak and the population has declined. The Pathfinder programmes are being used to turn around neighbourhoods so that people will want to live and work in these areas once again and communities can remain together.

Gateway's aim is to attract more people to live and work in the city and encourage existing residents to stay. Our vision is: **For the Hull housing market area to be a place where people to choose to live, a place of prosperous, diverse and sustainable communities and vibrant neighbourhoods providing an enviable quality of life for all.**

The first priority areas identified for housing market renewal action are: Newington and St. Andrew's in West Hull and Ings and Preston Road in East Hull.

Gateway is making real progress in the city including 150 new homes completed or on site in East Hull, 500 refurbishments in Newington and St Andrew's completed or on site, acquisition of homes and commercial properties on target and lead private sector developers on board, bringing in an additional investment of £200 million over the next ten years. We are also working to produce deliverable master plans for East Hull and Newington and St Andrew's.