



Contact: Paula Littleboy
Title: PA & Corporate Marketing Officer
Tele: 01924 831009
Date: July 2008

PRESS RELEASE

Young people building for the future

12 young people from schools in Ossett, Airedale and Carleton have recently embarked on a 12 month training programme with Chevin Housing Group to complete their City and Guilds Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Basic Construction Skills. The young people are almost at the end of year 1 of their 2 year programme having previously studied at the Manygates Centre in Wakefield.

Chevin are working in partnership with Wakefield's Adult and Community Education Services and the Wakefield Homebuilder partnership, in the delivery of the Construction Skills Training programme to meet local needs. Wakefield MDC Family Services and local schools are funding the training which is being delivered at Chevin's Construction Training Centre based in Featherstone.

The programme gives young people one to one training and supervision along with the opportunity to gain hands on experience in bench and site carpentry, joinery, brick work, basic electrical installation plumbing and much more.

Steve Lumb – Maintenance Officer at Chevin said:

“The training facility that Chevin has is the ideal facility to deliver bespoke training to this age group. This is a great chance for the kids to get the opportunity to try out their skills across a wide range of construction based activities giving them a taste of what it is really like. This will hopefully help them decide what they would like to do when they leave school and give them their first qualification route into the industry”

-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.