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Press Release

SUCCESSFUL SCHEME TRANSFORMS YOUNGSTERS LIVES

A training scheme which is changing young people's lives has been hailed a success on the Ings Estate in Hull. The Youth Build initiative offers young people the chance to gain qualifications whilst working in the construction industry alongside qualified builders.

Youth Build inducts trainees on a three year programme, helping them to gain skills such as joinery, plumbing, electrics and bricklaying. They are also able to go on and specialise in one area of their choice. Whilst training on site they also attend college part time to gain professional qualifications to help them into future employment.

Run by Chevin Housing Association Ltd and Southdale Homes in partnership with Gateway, the scheme has successfully trained two local lads and helped to get them into full time employment.

Gateway, the organisation set up to revive Hull's housing market and its partners are set to invest over £500 million across the city over the next 10 to 15 years.

James Douse and Howard Thompson have been training on the Gateway regeneration site on Ings. When the scheme started James was keen to work his way into the field of joinery and Howard into plumbing.

James has been offered the chance to work for ND Crossfield Joiners until December 2007 which will give him the time to complete his NVQ Level 2 and achieve his driving licence. If James has fulfilled these criteria then a permanent position with the company may be available.

Howard has been offered a full time post with Avonside Plumbing as of September 2007. This allows him to complete a three year plumbing qualification at Hull College one day a week and an additional year to gain a gas work qualification. Howard is also set to take his driving test in the coming weeks which will aid him in this role.

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Beverley Robinson, Human Resources Manager for Southdale Homes said:

"The trainees have had to work very hard to get to this point and I would like to say well done for their commitment. This has turned out to be a very positive experience for both Howard and James and they are now well on their way to rewarding full time employment."

Nick Smales, Programme Director for Gateway said:

"Gateway is keen to provide employment opportunities for young people in our regeneration areas and this scheme offers a way of doing this."

Steve Close, Group Chief Executive of Chevin Housing Group said:

"We are delighted to be able to work with Southdale Homes and Gateway on this initiative. Giving local youngsters the chance to develop skills for future employment is an integral part of our regeneration work".

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