

Contact: Paula Littleboy
Title: PA & Corporate Marketing Officer
Tele: 01924 831009
Date: March 2009

PRESS RELEASE

Chevin step up to tackle worklessness

Chevin have for several years supported initiatives that help tenants and residents enter into the job market.

Recognising the difficult economic climate that everyone is having to face up to at the moment, the most recent initiative they have launched to try and assist their resident in these difficult times is the "Initial Steps" programme.

Working across NE Yorkshire & the Humber and in partnership with Intraining Employability, the aim is to help residents who have difficulty finding work, have been made redundant or lost their jobs, to get into employment.

Intraining Employability has a team of advisors that offer help and support with writing CV's, giving interview tips and are able to help with any barriers to work. They have been successful in securing a Jobcentre Plus/European Social Fund contract called "Initial Steps" which offers a range of training and support such as: face to face advice and guidance, literacy and numeracy support, self-confidence building, job focus training and job searches, work experience placements, self-employment advice, employer information and marketing, enrolment on a training course to help get back into work and meeting new people.

Chevin's housing team have received training on the services offered and are actively promoting these to their residents via an agreed referral protocol. Referrals will be with the full consent of the resident who will receive one to one support and advice from Intraining Employability staff and its' partners.

Janine Ingle, Regeneration Manager said "We are so pleased to be working with Intraining Employability and being able to access and offer this invaluable service for our residents. We understand many people are struggling in the current climate in different ways and we hope that we can help give people not only support and guidance but the confidence to apply and go for job interviews.

Ron Morgan, Partnership Manager (intraining Employability) said "This is an opportunity for those residents' who feel they lack self-confidence and have lost some self-esteem and want to receive quality information, advice and guidance that will help them achieve their aims".

-Ends-

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, Harewood Housing Society Ltd and Synergy Housing Solutions 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 6,500 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.