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PRESS RELEASE

Chevin and Bramall win National Training Award

Chevin Housing Association working in partnership with South Yorkshire-based Bramall Construction has won a prestigious National Training Award for a pioneering programme aimed at plugging skills gaps in the construction industry.

Bramall, part of the Keepmoat Group, joined forces with Wakefield-based Chevin Housing Association in 2006 to develop the groundbreaking Kendray Bungalows Training Scheme.

Fifty trainees were given the chance to learn skills such as bricklaying and joinery by building two new Extra Care bungalows for older people in the Kendray area of Barnsley.

Julie Fuller, Training Officer for Bramall, said: "This superb partnership between Bramall and Chevin has now been rightly recognised for its contribution to boosting skills and training in the construction industry.

"We established the programme because recent years have seen growing evidence of a shortage of the skilled workers including bricklayers, joiners, plasterers, plumbers, roofers, window fitters, electricians and painters and decorators, which the housing industry needs.

Of the 50 trainees who completed the training, 10 students made rapid progress and were fast-tracked into high quality craftsman careers. The scheme allowed 42 trainees from Bramall to achieve NVQ Level 2 qualifications, and 15 to achieve NVQ Level 3 grades. In total, 45 have gone into full-time jobs.

Vicky Fenton, Senior Housing Officer from Chevin Housing said: "Everyone has benefited, including residents who are delighted with the high standard of finish to their homes. We are proud to be associated with this initiative and pleased that Bramall has been recognised for their pioneering approach to training."

Photographed receiving the award from left to right: Linda Gray (Project Manager), Arnold Fenton (Scheme Support Officer at Lavender Court) and Vicky Fenton (Senior Housing Officer).