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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **We are so proud – Lavender Court wins award**

Staff, residents and board members of Chevin Housing were all delighted when on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Lavender Court won the National Housing Federations regional 'What we are proud of awards'

Presentations by finalists took place at the regional awards conference at York Railway Museum with Lavender Court winning the award for the Yorkshire and Humberside Region.

Chevin Housing put forward Lavender Court (which is an extra care scheme) for the award because of the difference it has made to people's lives both within the scheme and the local community. Lavender Court was part of a wider regeneration project on the Kendray estate in Barnsley and the work included an award winning apprentice scheme where local youngsters built 2 of the extra care bungalows. Of the 50 apprentices, 45 went on to gain employment with the other 5 continuing to train to gain further qualifications.

Norma Chapman and Roy Hatton, both residents at Lavender Court told attendees at the conference how it had changed their lives in so many different ways. Lorna Shaw, aged 7, a regular visitor to her Great Grandma Margaret, told everyone that her Grandma has more friends than she has now and she is no longer afraid of older people and people with disabilities.

**Julie Gamble, National Housing Federation Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Manager said** "The What We Are proud of Awards were established by the National Housing Federation to showcase the diverse range of projects and initiatives housing associations are involved in. This year the standard of entries has been exceptionally high.

Chevin Housing's Lavender Court scheme has had a fantastic impact on the lives of many individuals and in the wider community. It showcases that housing associations are about so much more than bricks and mortar. They are working at the very heart of communities, investing in neighbourhoods, making a positive and substantial difference in the region. Chevin Housing really do have a great deal to be proud of."

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**Steve Close, Chief Executive of Chevin said “**

We are delighted that Lavender Court won the award, everyone at Chevin is proud of what has been achieved in the regeneration of Kendray in partnership with Barnsley Council, Berneslai Homes and Bramall Construction. The scheme itself is very popular and the facilities which are open to the local community are well used. It is very satisfying to hear residents talk of how it has significantly improved their quality of life”.

It was a great day celebrating the housing sectors success stories across the region and Lavender Court will now go through to the National finals in September.

**Photographed:**

**From back left to right:** Paula Littleboy (Chevin Housing Group - PA & Corporate Marketing Officer) Roy Hatton (Lavender Court resident), Julie Gamble (Nat Fed - Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Manager), Derek Long (Nat Fed - Head of North Region) **Middle left to right:** Radojka Miljevic (Senior Consultant - Campbell Tickell), Arnold Fenton (Chevin Housing Group - Scheme Support Officer), Janice Poole (Chevin Housing Group - Scheme Manager, Vicky Fenton (Chevin Housing Group - Senior Supported Housing Officer) **Front:** Norma Chapman (Lavender Court resident).

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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, 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.