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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Bearly excited!!!!**

#### **Kids receive a new bear from Chevin**

Pupils from Rowena Nursery & Infant School in Conisbrough, Nr Doncaster were delighted to receive a carved, wooden bear which was donated by Chevin Housing Group.

Pupils in the Conisbrough and Denaby pyramid of schools were approached by the local council and invited to enter a competition held by Chevin Housing to name the new extra scheme nearby and the children from Rowena jumped at the chance.

The winner was Leonie Cairns aged 6 years old who thought of the name Harrogate Court. It was felt that this linked in nicely with the name of the road up to the scheme which is Harrogate Drive.

A special assembly was held in school where Leonie was presented with an individual prize and the school was presented with a wooden Rowena Bear to be situated in their newly designed Wild Life area in the school grounds.

Mrs Benton, Headteacher said "This is a school at the heart of the community and the children are always keen to get involved in community activities."

The extra care scheme which is due to be completed in October 2008 consists of 50 apartments for older people built in partnership with Chevin Housing Association, Doncaster MBC, Strata and supported by grant funding from the Housing Corporation.

Extracare housing schemes link accommodation with care and are seen as the way forward to provide older people with their own high quality accommodation, with access to housing related support and a personal care package that is close at hand. The main aim is to give older people the support they need in an environment that promotes independence, whilst providing a real alternative to residential care.

**Photograph:** Leonie Cairns with Christine Boucher, Project Manager from Chevin Housing Group and the new bear.

**-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 and Harewood Housing Society 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 6,000 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.