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Date: August 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Having a fun time cleaning up

Chevin Housing Association, in partnership with Hull City Council, organised a "Fun and Big Clean Up" day during August for residents living on the Ings estate in Hull.

Chevin staff along with residents young and old all got involved filling skips with unwanted household items along with picking up litter from the estate. A buffet lunch was in order after all of that work and prizes were given to the children for taking part and being proud of their estate.

All the community got involved with lots of activities happening throughout the day including; learning how to do some basic DIY with Chevin's maintenance team, a face painter, bouncy castle, magician and balloon maker. The local Fire Brigade came along with their fire engine and children were able to have a go with the water hoses and received goodie bags. Southdale Homes kindly sponsored a hamper for a prize draw, fruit was donated by "Orchard Fruits" the local greengrocers and Chevin's local electrical contractors, J M Hogarth, donated an electric kettle for a raffle prize.

Don McKenzie, local resident and member of the Tenants' and Residents' Committee used his DIY skills and had a go at tiling a wall. **Don said** "The event was a step in the right direction and it was good for community spirit".

Gill Green, Service Improvement Co-ordinator at Chevin said "I was very impressed with the effort put in by the people living on the Ings estate and the Chevin staff who worked hard to ensure the day went well. The involvement of residents is the key to the long term success of events like these and for the sustainability of new neighbourhoods. Our aim in this area of Hull has been to give the area a fresh start and hope that residents appreciate how good the neighbourhood can be if they work with us and other agencies to rebuild communities".

Photographed: Don McKenzie (a local resident) having a go at tiling with Chevin's maintenance team.

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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.