



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

News Release

Youngsters want to learn more

After a 10 week course youngsters ask if they can keep on learning!!!

9 youngsters aged between 14-16 from Cathedral High School and St Thomas a Becket School in Wakefield have just undertaken a 10 week Introduction to DIY Course at Chevin Housing Group's Construction Training Centre in Featherstone.

Attending for 5 hours per week, after the 10 weeks were up all of the students asked if they could stay on until after Easter to learn and get more hands on experience.

Wakefield Homebuilder have partnered with Chevin Housing Group to deliver the course with the objective being to teach youngsters DIY skills including plumbing, brickwork, blockwork, plastering and tiling. This experience will help them in deciding whether they want to make a career in construction.

The training centre currently caters for a number of other learners from local schools engaged on the workstart programme, a 2 year course delivering a City and Guilds level 1 Introduction to Construction Certificate in Basic Construction Skills. Further training opportunities are being developed and will be introduced in the near future.

Steve Lumb from the Construction Training Centre at Chevin said:

"This training facility is ideal to deliver bespoke training to this age group. It is a great opportunity for the kids to try out their skills across a wide range of construction based activities giving them a taste of what it is really like. This will hopefully help them decide what they would like to do when they leave school and give them their first qualification route into the industry"

Photographed:

The students were congratulated and presented with certificates for their attendance by Steve Close, Group Chief Executive. The photo shows three of the students with their certificates outside of the training centre. **Front left to right:** Nathan French, Michael Ogilvie and Josh Lancaster **Back left to right:** Steve Close, Chevin's Group Chief Executive and Steve Lumb who works for Chevin at the Construction Training Centre.

-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.