



Press release

Date: 15th July 2009

GCH tenants share wartime memories

A group of Gloucester City Homes' tenants recently shared their memories of living during the Second World War with children at Shurdington Primary School. The tenants who came from sheltered housing schemes across the City had previously contributed stories which were published in the GCH Telling Tales story book.

The event which was arranged by the GCH Supported Housing Team, complemented a project the children had been working on for the last 6 months about World War 2, and also coincided with National Armed Forces Week.

The tenants talked to the children about their memories which included piloting a Lancaster bomber, sharing their homes with families who had been evacuated from London, sheltering during the bombing raids and living through food rationing.

The group brought in various items for the children to see including photographs and medals as well as examples of the small quantities of food that people had to live on for a week during wartime. The children had numerous questions for the group about what it was like to live during the war. The group has since received 23 letters from the children thanking them for their visit.

GCH Supported Housing Manager Diana Wilks commented:

'This was a wonderful opportunity for our tenants to share their wartime memories with the children and to make a contribution to their school project. We hope to visit a number of other schools over the coming months.'

For further information about the Telling Tales book or the schools project, please call Gloucester City Homes on 0800 408 2000.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Gloucester City Homes is a 2 star Arms Length Management Company, which provides housing management services to 4500 homes in Gloucester on behalf of the City Council. The company is carrying out a £40 million improvement programme to bring customers' homes to the Decent Homes Standard. Since Gloucester City Homes was created in 2005 it has:

- Achieved a 2* rating (Good service) from the Audit Commission in June 2007
- Secured £39.6 million in Decent Homes funding to meet the Government's Decent Homes standard and completed improvements to over 1200 homes in the City.
- Become the first housing provider in the County to achieve a Gold standard for its supporting people services
- Achieved Investors in People Accreditation for performance management of our staff
- Achieved ISO 9001 for Quality Management systems, re-accredited again on the 9th March 2009 following re-inspection
- Achieved "managing for others" status with the Housing Corporation
- Achieved Investment Partner status with the Housing Corporation
- Implemented a programme of training for staff to achieve the Institute of Customer Service Awards
- Achieved the Customer Services Excellence Award in April 2009
- Achieved the Equalities Framework Award April 2009