



# Press release

For immediate release

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## GCH sponsors Respect booklet for Gloucester schools

Gloucester City Homes is working with 4 Gloucester Schools to support their work on the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum. GCH has sponsored the Children's Safety Education Foundation to produce the work booklet "RESPECT! Your Life, Your Choice". Children at Beaufort Community School, Central Technology School, Barnwood Park Arts College and The Crypt School are now using the book in lessons as part of the PSHE curriculum.

The Government has already announced that PSHE education is a statutory subject in schools from 2010 and will be made compulsory in schools from September 2011.

PSHE gives young people the information they need to make the right choices about their future. It covers a range of issues young people growing up today face such as:

- leading healthier lifestyles
- body image and health issues
- managing personal finance
- careers education
- avoiding harm from alcohol and drugs.

Building on the recommendations of an independent review by Sir Alasdair Macdonald and following extensive public consultations, PSHE, will become a statutory part of the national curriculum at Primary and Secondary level for all young people for the first time in 2011.

### **GCH Head of Customer Services and Community Investment says:**

'Gloucester City Homes is proud to have the opportunity to work with the Children's Safety Education Foundation in sponsorship of this work booklet. We hope that through schools that we can help raise awareness in a number of areas such as anti-social behaviour, drugs, solvent abuse, bullying and promote the benefits of young people getting involved in their communities. We are committed to working with the Children's Safety Education Foundation and will continue to work hard to develop improved neighbourhoods and successful sustainable communities.'

**Jane Mason, Head of Citizenship at Beaufort Community School says**

Staff and students from Beaufort Community School are delighted to be working with Gloucester City Homes in regard to focusing on young peoples' safety and their involvement in the community. The 'RESPECT Your Life, Your Choice', booklets recently donated to the school are a superb resource that will challenge students to engage with issues such as bullying, hate crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and much more. In thinking about their own health, well-being and safety we are encouraging young people to make positive decisions for themselves and in turn these choices have an impact on the communities in which our students live.

It is wholly appropriate to take a multi-agency approach to the important matter of young peoples' safety and the school is looking forward to a continued involvement with Gloucester City Homes and the Children's Safety Education Foundation.

**Sophie Cook, Head of PHSE at Central Technology College adds**

'We are very happy that Gloucester City Homes has decided to support the 'Respect' initiative. The resource itself is laid out in a very attractive way, and contains lots of information that is pertinent to young people today. The drugs and alcohol sections in particular are very clear and well-explained. The booklet will be of great benefit to our students, in terms of teaching them to make the right decisions about their health and well-being.'

**Bryan Gardner, Senior Teacher at Barnwood Park Arts College comments:**

'Barnwood Park is delighted to be working with Gloucester City Homes which has sponsored the 'Respect' books for use in Personal, Social and Health Education lessons. This publication covers a variety of topics that are relevant to young people and is full of up to date information including details of useful organisations. We shall be using the books as reference tools within lessons to enable pupils to develop their skills to make informed and healthy lifestyle choices'

**Karen Roche, Head of PHSE at The Crypt School says**

'The Crypt School would like to thank Gloucester City Homes for providing our Key Stage 3 students with the latest edition of the 'Respect - your life, your choice' booklets. This booklet will certainly enhance our Personal Education – PSHE & Citizenship – curriculum and provide the boys with up to date and well informed material. The topics covered will allow the students to consider vital decision making information about a diverse range of topics, such as bullying, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour which are all areas of great concern in society today. Using the information in the Respect booklets will in turn raise the students' awareness about these issues and help them to make wise choices for their future personal and social well being. This is a tremendous resource which I can assure you will be very well used – so thank you Gloucester City Homes from all the year 7 & 8 & 9 boys at Crypt and from their grateful Personal Education teachers.'

**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 4900 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 2500 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 Gold Standard Accreditation for performance management of our staff
- Achieved ISO 9001 for Quality Management systems, re-accredited again in March 2010 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 and Special Recognition Award in October 2009
- Achieved the Equalities Framework Award April 2009