



# Press release

For immediate release

Ref: GCH

3rd March 2010

## GCH Junior Warden programme

Gloucester City Homes is delighted to announce the launch of a second Junior Wardens scheme. The new scheme is based in White City and has been set up as a result of partnership working with Finlay Community School and White City Adventure Playground.

The scheme will be launched at Finlay Community School at 3:30pm on Thursday 4th March.

The group will carry out their first estate inspection on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March and will take part in a programme of activities over the coming months including awareness sessions on anti-social behaviour and environmental issues.

The scheme is part of a programme of Junior Warden Schemes planned for the City as a result of GCH's work in partnership with community stakeholders.

The schemes are aimed at encouraging children to become more involved in their community and take pride in the environment in which they live. Junior wardens are encouraged to show respect for themselves, their community and their environment and take ownership of the area in which they live.

A group of children from Finlay Community School has volunteered to become Junior Wardens. The group has chosen the name 'Streetsteppers' and has worked on developing their own logo to identify the scheme.

The Streetsteppers will carry out inspections within the community on a regular basis to identify and report issues such as fly tipping, graffiti, litter dropping, vandalism to bus shelters and play areas and untidy gardens. They will also be able to give us ideas on how to improve the local area for example more lighting, dog bins. It is hoped that the children will encourage friends and family to take more care of the community.

### **Lisa Howarth, GCH Head of Customer Services and Community Investment added:-**

I'm delighted to support a second group of junior wardens in Gloucester. The Street Steppers at Finlay Community School are excited about becoming involved in their community and looking forward to seeing the results of their inspections in the neighbourhood.

**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 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 in September 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 and Special Recognition Award in October 2009
- Achieved the Equalities Framework Award April 2009