



Press release

Ref: GCH

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GCH launches first Junior Wardens Scheme

Gloucester City Homes is delighted to announce the launch of the first Junior Wardens scheme in Matson and Robinswood as a result of partnership working with Robinswood Primary School, Gloucestershire Constabulary and Matson and Robinswood Residents Association.

The launch took place at Robinswood Primary School, Matson on Friday 27th November with the first walkabout on Monday 30th November.

This is the first of a number 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 themselves, their community and their environment and take ownership of the area in which they live.

A group of children from Robinswood Primary School have volunteered to become Junior Wardens. They will have briefing sessions on road safety as well as other key issues such as street care, anti-social behaviour and environmental issues. This first junior wardens group have chosen the name 'Cool Kids Crew – CKC.'

The Cool Kids Crew in Matson and Robinswood 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.

Martin Latham, Headmaster of Robinswood Primary commented:-

'Robinswood Primary School is heavily involved in a range of community activities, as we see this to be a crucial factor in the education of our youngsters. Alongside this we focus both inside and outside the curriculum upon our pupils taking on and accepting responsibility. We live in a world where too often people do not take real responsibility and the focus is upon finding someone else to blame. It is crucial that society moves away from this and that our children understand and accept personal responsibility both for now and as they become adults in the future. The Junior Warden Scheme is just one aspect of how we can do this by at the least identifying issues within our community and informing those who can do something about it.'

Lisa Howarth, GCH Head of Customer Services and Community Investment commented:-

'We are thrilled to be launching our first Junior Wardens Scheme and hope this will be the first of many to follow. Junior Wardens will benefit from a series of briefings on key issues, develop pride in their community and a sense of ownership of local issues. This scheme gives children the opportunity to make a real difference in the community.'

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