



# Press release

For immediate release

Ref: GCH

29th March 2010

## Workshop aims to reduce anti-social behaviour

Gloucester City Homes has held a one-day workshop for young people involved in low level anti-social behaviour. The aim of the workshop was to educate them about drugs and alcohol awareness and the consequences of anti-social behaviour for themselves, their families and their communities.

The workshop was funded by the Gloucester Crime and Disorder Partnership and was held in partnership with Gloucestershire Police and InfoBuzz, who delivered the workshop programme. The project was also supported by the youngsters' parents who helped to make the day a success.

The event was also an opportunity for GCH find out what the young people thought about their own behaviour and that of their peers to help tackle anti-social behaviour in the future. Recognising that prevention is the key to reducing anti-social behaviour, GCH hopes that educating young people at an early stage will have a positive effect on their behaviour.

The workshop highlighted that many youngsters thought there was a lack of activities in their area and felt they did not have enough money to take part in activities elsewhere leading to boredom and anti-social behaviour.

The group suggested that more community events, youth clubs and parks with sheltered areas could reduce anti-social behaviour and the CDRP is drawing up an action plan to improve this for the future.

Those who attended the event found it a positive experience with one member of the group saying:

'I came away with a lot and hope that days like this will happen again'.

### **Neil Smith, Gloucester South INA Inspector commented:**

"The event organised by GCH was ground breaking in so many ways. Nothing of this nature has ever been carried out in Gloucestershire before and the feedback I have received has been extremely positive.

The event was purely voluntary and to their credit all invited children and their parents attended. Everybody found it very useful and it opened peoples' eyes to how their behaviour can have a damning affect on individuals and the community as a whole.

It is still very early days but I am hoping further events such as this will be taking place. Gloucestershire Constabulary has formed a strong working partnership with GCH and we both understand how important the effective, positive dealing of ASB is and how it can harm a community"

**Gloucester City Homes Chief Executive Ashley Green added:**

"I echo Neil's comments and the excellent support of the Police. I am really pleased we are working with young people who have been involved in anti-social behaviour in any way. The fact that they turned up and were supported by their parent's shows that they want to learn from their mistakes. We encourage that and working with our partners, these events enable everyone to learn from each other so we can make our communities better and safer places to live."

**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 4800 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 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