

PRESS RELEASE

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Newton's new teens



Photographs of award winners available

Young people from Hyde showed their true colours when they presented their live 8 poster projects to a specially invited audience this week.

A short presentation evening was held in New Charter's Headquarters on Monday this week, with residents, parents, Newton Onward Forum members and local councillors invited. They gathered to recognise work done by young people in Newton, and present awards to them. The young people aged between 14 and 17 have been working on a live 8 project and a lottery bid with Groundwork Tameside.

New Charter funds a youth (diversionary) worker, Stacey Copeland of Groundwork Trust who has been able to get them to contribute to the life of the neighbourhood, rather than being seen as part of the problem. They usually meet at Bennett Street Community Centre



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and at the Newton Onward Forum shop at Acresfield Road which New Charter donates. The youngsters' engagement is turning them into the new citizens we need. Reported anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhood has now reduced to a trickle - a local success story!

A special award from local residents went to Jack Schofield for his work to clean up the environment. Local resident Connie O'Neill of Barleycroft Road, Hyde, who chairs the Newton Onward Forum, presented the prize to recognise the youngster's efforts to keep the recreational facilities tidy.

Connie said: "We started Newton Onward Forum to bring the whole neighbourhood together, and provide learning opportunities for all ages. The support of partners like New Charter has been invaluable. Teenagers need their energies harnessed for the good of the area, and I'm delighted that we can recognise their efforts. It's a real plus for Newton".

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of almost £60million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the country's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. It owns just under 14,600 homes.
2. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project to improve housing associations' performance, and challenge negative perceptions of the sector and its customers. The project was launched at the National Housing Federation's annual conference in 2003. To date, 80 per cent of the sector's stock – over 1.5 million homes – is managed by associations who have joined the initiative and made fresh commitments to neighbourhoods, customers and excellence.

CONTACTS:

David Rigby or Paula Thomas - New Charter Publicity 0161 331 2000

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