

PRESS RELEASE

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Leading edge for learning



Pictures available of young learner James Nuttall

North West firm, New Charter Housing Trust Group is the regional winner of the Edge Employer Awards 2006, winning a prize of £10,000 for further investment into training. Through our excellent work-based learning scheme, we battled it out to win the medium to large business category and will now go through to the national finals held later this year.

And it was a double success as trainee Property Surveyor James Nuttall of New Charter scooped the award as the North West's outstanding young practical learner, winning a prize of £2,000 for further investment into training.

Edge is an independent foundation dedicated to raising the desirability and status of vocational and practical learning among 14 - 24 year olds of all levels of ability.

A prestigious regional judging panel chose New Charter because of our range of work-based learning styles to engage young people living in the local area. We deliver development opportunities, such as on-the-job learning, coaching, secondments, work experience and job shadowing. We run several learning by doing schemes, in particular Modern Apprenticeships, which has led to permanent jobs for many of the young people taking part.



business for neighbourhoods

The Edge Employer Awards rewards organisations that provide outstanding learning opportunities for 14–25 year-olds, and in 2006 is also rewarding individuals for their learning achievements. This year Edge is awarding £300,000 to employers that provide quality apprenticeships, excellent work placements and other practical learning opportunities.

Director of Organisational Development at New Charter, Christine Amyes said: “We are delighted to have won this accolade. Not only is it wonderful to be recognised for the opportunities we are providing young people, but we now have £10,000 to help us continue and build on the great things we are doing.”

Andy Powell, Chief Executive Officer at Edge said: “Edge is delighted to award this prize to New Charter Housing Trust Group. It has created some fantastic opportunities for young people in the North West region and has shown that hands-on learning is good for employers and employees alike. This is a great example of the good work we want to shine a spotlight on.”

James Nuttall (19) lives in Dukinfield and said: “I was gobsmacked when I heard I’d won this award. I joined New Charter as a modern apprentice, and after looking at the range of careers on offer, fancied a job in surveying. New Charter promptly enrolled me at Salford University on day release. I’m just keen to learn and this award has come out of the blue.”

New Charter will attend the awards ceremony held in London on November 28 to discover whether it has become a national winner. Journalists are invited to attend the awards ceremony at London's Camden Roundhouse. The celebrity national judging panel, which includes Simon Woodroffe, the founder of YO! Sushi and of Dragons’ Den fame and Alexandra Amosu, founder of R&B Ringtones, will also be attending.



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 £48million a year and a workforce of over 800, New Charter is one of the country's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association recently, the Group owns over 15,000 homes.
2. Last year (2005/06), New Charter delivered over 3500 training days for our employees. We were awarded Investor in People status in September 2004.
3. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for Neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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