

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Modern Apprentice of the Year



Photograph of Nicky Doran receiving award from Group Chief Executive Ian Munro available

New Charter is pleased to announce the winner of its Modern Apprentice of the Year 2006 is plasterer Nicky Doran of New Charter Building.

Nicky lives in Chapel View, Dukinfield, and was selected from more than 50 modern apprentices. He has just completed his three year apprenticeship under the wing of experienced plasterer Ronnie Allsopp, and has secured a contract with New Charter.

Nicky joined New Charter after leaving West Hill School in Stalybridge. “I wasn’t academically minded, although I left school with six GCSEs”, he recalls. “I have to thank my mum, Mary and my girlfriend, Becky, who really encouraged me to try for a modern apprenticeship at New Charter. They could see then what I can see now – a valuable trade



which should guarantee my future job prospects, and with a company that's transforming whole neighbourhoods."

Ronnie Allsopp, who Nicky spent much of his three years learning alongside, was also delighted with the award. "He's a quick learner, and I've tried to complement his college work with the sort of practical experience I got as an apprentice many years ago. I've even been able to pass on skills such as coving, which we wouldn't normally do at New Charter. Nicky really deserved this recognition."

Ian Munro, Group Chief Executive of New Charter presented Nicky with his award and prize at the annual Staff Awards night. He said "I am personally keen to recognize excellence among our workforce, and Nicky's enthusiasm and application is a shining example. He has handsomely repaid the investment we have made in his career, and joins the ranks of excellent tradespeople who look after our tenants' homes."

## 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 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. New Charter has taken on more than 70 modern apprentices, and offers both clerical and trade apprenticeships. Recruitment starts after Easter each year.
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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