

PRESS RELEASE

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Family Respect

New Charter is one of only five housing associations across the country to receive funding to set up family intervention projects.

The main objective of a family intervention project is to stop the anti-social behaviour of families and restore safety to their homes and to the wider community. But projects also tackle the causes of poor behaviour which involve issues such as drug and alcohol misuse, poor health, domestic violence, unemployment and debt.

The Housing Corporation invited bids for a share of £250,000 from its Innovation and Good Practice fund to help housing associations set up family intervention projects (FIPs) over the next two years. A panel that included representatives from homeless charity Shelter and Genesis Community Housing, as well as the Housing Corporation, selected New Charter's successful bid. We were chosen for our clear partnership links, comprehensive and wide-ranging support interventions, detailed plans and overall commitment to the project.

Our project envisages working with 17 families at any one time in a mixture of outreach, core unit accommodation and dispersed properties. Intervention techniques will include help for families to address the causes of their behaviour, and supervision and encouragement tools to provide them with the incentive to change. Referrals can be accepted from agencies including other housing associations, the police, community safety team, children's services and probation.

New Charter's Director of Tenancy Services, Tony Powell said: "We work in an area which is no worse and no better for anti-social families but we have a justifiable reputation for tackling such problems. Most tenants of ours will be delighted that we are pursuing another way of dealing with the problems that a few families create. We are the lead housing association in the area for delivering supported housing and provide the housing and homelessness advice service, so are well placed to lead on such a scheme. It's another example of New Charter being **iN business for neighbourhoods**."

This funding enables the project to be assembled. No decisions have been taken on the precise mix of support, or the location of any core unit accommodation and dispersed properties.

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. The Housing Corporation proposed earlier this year to provide up to £250,000 from its Innovation and Good Practice (IGP) fund to help five housing associations set up FIP centres over the next two years. The successful associations are New Charter (Tameside), Servite Houses (Wandsworth), Calico Housing (Burnley), Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association (Bedford) and Tees Valley Housing Association (Middlesbrough).
3. The Respect Standard for Housing Management was launched by government in August, and outlines the core components essential to delivering an effective response to anti-social behaviour and building stronger communities. These components include accountability, leadership, giving greater resident empowerment, and supporting community efforts at tackling anti-social behaviour.
4. Family Intervention Projects are included in the Government's Respect Action Plan. The Projects work with the perpetrators of nuisance behaviour to challenge and address the underlying issues that they and their families might be experiencing, and to prevent them being involved in future anti-social behaviour.
5. **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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