



PRESS RELEASE

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Aksa's helping hand



Picture available

A terminally ill child from Chadderton whose benefits were cut has been able to continue her gymnastics thanks to immediate support from Aksa Housing Association.

Nine-year-old Courtney Davies suffered lung damage when two, and has Pulmonary Fibrosis, a disease more commonly associated with older people. Mum Paula turned to Aksa's Housing Support Team for help. However, the family recently lost the Disability Living Allowance for Courtney, despite the rigorous care regime which they have to follow to prolong Courtney's life.

Medical advice for sufferers includes regular exercise to maintain exercise tolerance and Courtney was devastated as the benefit covered membership of Oldham Gymnastics based at the Radclyffe School.

Although the family is appealing against the benefit decision, Housing Support worker Adele Stretch realised the consequences for Courtney, who attends nearby Christ Church School. And Adele's employer Aksa Housing Association was quick to announce that it would cover the gym costs to maintain Courtney's life-prolonging exercise.

Chair of Aksa, Aslam Khan and Housing Support Officer Adele Stretch called to see Courtney and her family to present a cheque to cover the gym fees. Aslam said: "Our housing support team do a great job for all clients, but it was impossible not to be moved by this case. The family has much more to overcome than the rest of us, and I'm pleased to take some of the worry away from the Davies family."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Aksa Housing Association has operated since 1990 and owns over 650 homes in Oldham, Tameside, Bury and North Manchester. Its offices are in Oldham town centre.



business for neighbourhoods

In November 2005, it joined the New Charter Housing Trust Group based in Ashton-under-Lyne.

2. The Housing Support team set up in 2003, in partnership with Oldham MBC and Bury MBC. Initially focused on helping Aksa tenants from Oldham and Bury, the service now helps any resident in the two metropolitan areas. The team helps people live independently and maintain their tenancies with practical short-term support. Many clients have experienced traumatic events or suffer with mental health issues.
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.

CONTACTS:

David Rigby or Paula Thomas - New Charter 0161 331 2000

<http://www.newcharter.co.uk/Aksa/index.asp>

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