

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

1st October 2007

Third time lucky for Bryn



Photographs available

A Stalybridge man was crowned Modern Apprentice of the Year 2007 at New Charter's annual Staff Awards night.

Plasterer Bryn Shelley was so determined to combine his desire for learning with working for New Charter that he applied for a modern apprenticeship for THREE years!

Bryn (22) lives in Cecil Street, Stalybridge. He was selected for the award from more than 60 modern apprentices. He joined New Charter in September 2006 and is starting his second year of a three-year apprenticeship under the wing of experienced plasterer Phil Speers.

Bryn went to West Hill School in Stalybridge, and left with 10 good GCSE passes. After getting three A levels at Ashton Sixth Form College, he got a job with a local builder and tried several trades before finding plastering was right for him. "It's a traditional craft, almost old-fashioned, and that was part of the appeal," recalled Bryn. "A couple of mates worked for New Charter and they told me that I'd get great training with its Building Company."

He admits that his third try at securing a modern apprenticeship was going to be his last. "I was really pleased to get in. I have to thank my mum, Shirley and my girlfriend, Joanne who encouraged me to try again for a modern apprenticeship at New Charter. Their support has made the hard work of balancing work and study worthwhile. And Phil (Speers) is not only a top plasterer and an excellent mentor, but has become a good friend. At first I was shell-shocked when my name was announced at the awards night. But I'm pleased my efforts have been recognised."

Bryn collected a glass trophy, certificate and the £300 prize.

MANCAT in Openshaw provides the college-based learning which is guiding Bryn to a level 2 NVQ in Plastering. Provided the college attract enough



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interest to run the qualification, Bryn wants to get Level 3 NVQ in Plastering. But he's also got one eye on moving into building surveying as his studies succeed.

Ian Munro, Group Chief Executive of New Charter said "I am delighted to recognise excellence among our workforce, and Bryn's enthusiasm and application is a shining example. He is already an asset to us, and his determination to succeed makes him a worthy winner. As he completes his learning, I hope he will join 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 £53million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the region's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association, the Group owns 15,000 homes.
2. Modern Apprenticeships are a high-quality work-based training programme. They give the opportunity to earn and learn – collecting a pay packet while learning new skills, and gaining knowledge and qualifications. The apprenticeship scheme will lead to a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ), Key Skills and a technical certificate. But apprentices will need to successfully juggle work and study.
3. We've recruited 61 apprentices in the last 6 years.
4. **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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