

# PRESS RELEASE

**Immediate release**

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## **Gunners on target**

Audenshaw Gunners, a football team set up to combat anti social behaviour in the town has won community support to secure its future.

The idea was kicked off by New Charter and Greater Manchester Police, and now the team has financial support for the next 12 months from the two partners and Tameside Council.

The Gunners squad comprise 20 young men between the ages of 15 and 21. New Charter enlisted help from the professional coaching staff at FC United, the supporter-run community club formed after the Glazer takeover at Old Trafford. It is currently well placed in the Unibond Premier League. FC United provide two sessions a week for the next year, paid for by New Charter. The money from the Council and the Police will pay for pitch hire and transport.

The team and FC United coach Jake Edwards gathered before a training session to receive cheques from partners. Audenshaw Councillor Wendy Brelsford joined PC Katie Murray, PCSO Chris Rogers and Mike Holt of New Charter at Egerton Park Arts College where the Gunners train.

Tony Powell, Managing Director of New Charter Homes said: "I'm delighted the Gunners have scored with all three organisations. We've seen a pride in representing the area, as well as a welcome reduction in general nuisance in the neighbourhood. And the coaching from FC United is improving skills levels to complement the young men's enthusiasm for the game."

Now a match is to be arranged between the Gunners and FC United's youth team to see how much improvement has been made.

### **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 £59million a year and a workforce of 840,



New Charter is one of the region's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Gedling Homes, the Group owns 18,600 homes.

2. New Charter has invested £1700 and staff time to promote the Gunners, which is part of its overall approach to providing alternatives to anti-social behaviour. Tameside Council has awarded the Gunners £320.
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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