

PRESS RELEASE

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Double gold for New Charter



Photographs available

Dame Kelly Holmes did it, Rebecca Adlington did it, Eleanor Simmonds did it – and now New Charter has joined the prestigious ranks of double gold medallists. Commitment to health and safety at work has won it two coveted Gold awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

RoSPA is one of the world's leading health and safety organisations. To win these awards, New Charter had to show a first-class safety management system, and evidence of a consistently good or continuously improving accident injury performance. Both the Trust, which runs rented homes, and the Building Company were successful. Over the last five years, accidents have reduced by an impressive 62%.

The RoSPA awards are not just about reducing the number of accidents and cases of ill-health at work; they help ensure organisations have good health and safety management systems in place. Entering the awards reinforces the message that good health and safety is good business, and clearly shows an organisation's commitment to achieve high performance in this crucial area.

New Charter saw managing the risks as essential to its operation when formed in 2000. The judges' eyes were especially attracted to its comprehensive approach which promotes the health and well-being of the 840-strong workforce as well as more traditional measures such as safety workwear and policies.

David Rawlins, RoSPA Awards Manager said: "New Charter has shown a commitment to protecting the health and well-being of its employees and others. We hope other businesses and organisations will follow its lead and strive for continuous improvement in health and safety management."



business for neighbourhoods

New Charter Housing Trust has won gold before, but the Building Company has achieved the highest accolade for the first time.

Managing Director of New Charter Building Company Andy Stafford said: "We have good policies that our managers put into practice because they see the productive return on performance and customer satisfaction. It's not an add-on, but part of our key tasks. Nationally, construction has always been a high risk area, but we prove this can be managed well. We did over £30 million worth of building work, but reduced accidents of all sorts to just 17. Only three of these incurred lost time last year. I believe it gives us an advantage when tendering for other clients' work."

Group Director of Organisational Development, Christine Amyes said: "We are happy to put our health and safety record under the microscope of RoSPA, although we constantly monitor our own performance. Our work spans an immense area of potential risk from lone working of staff through manual handling to construction. It's excellent news that our group-wide approach to managing risk has been recognised with the Gold award. Good health and safety is good business; for New Charter, it is fundamental to our growing success."

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. It was named in the Sunday Times best 100 companies to work for in 2009.
2. The RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety awards are sponsored by the leading health and safety professional examining body, NEBOSH (National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health).
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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