

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

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Side by side on TV

Pictures available

Oldham-based Aksa Housing Association is to feature in the second series of a popular BBC One documentary.

“Neighbourhood Watched”, a series of four 40-minute programmes, was broadcast last August. Each episode attracted more than 2.3m viewers.

Filming for a second series began this week. The programmes will follow staff as they deal with the variety of tasks and customers they encounter daily.

In the first series, independent production company Raw Television found the human consequences of the economic downturn, with tensions and existing homes in short supply. The work landlords do to tackle anti-social behaviour made some of the headlines. But there were also heart-warming stories of local people faced with change as they grew older, and the joy of success in garden competitions.

The second series will follow the same format but promises to look at some of the more topical issues facing housing providers and their communities.

Aksa is celebrating its twentieth year. Although it has continued to grow in Oldham, it has also developed new homes for rent elsewhere in Greater Manchester. As a specialist BME association, it joined the New Charter Housing Trust Group five years ago. New Charter was heavily featured in the first series of the documentary and will appear alongside Aksa in the new series.

New Charter’s Group Chief Executive Ian Munro said: “We believe “Neighbourhood Watched” gave a balanced insight into the excellent work housing providers do. Yes, there are risks associated with granting such wide access to the film crew, as recent celebrity-based housing programmes have shown. But good housing is a cornerstone of society, and we hope the second series will show the links with good health, improving



education and improving tenants' job prospects. I'm delighted that two of the landlords in the Group will contribute to the programmes."

Executive Producer for Raw Television, Lucy Willis said: "The last series of "Neighbourhood Watched" offered a compelling and entertaining window on modern day social housing. We found such a wealth of material that we're delighted to be making a second series and this time round we'll be including some new, thought provoking areas. "

The series will be filmed through to early autumn and delivered to BBC One for transmission in 2011.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £70million a year and a workforce of 880, New Charter is one of the region's largest registered providers of social housing, and is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, a Government watchdog. The Group owns 18,600 homes. It was named at 6th place in The Sunday Times 100 best companies to work for in 2010.
2. Aksa Housing Association is a registered provider of social housing. It has operated since 1990 and owns over 670 homes in Oldham, Tameside, Bury and North Manchester. Its offices are in Oldham town centre, and its Board chose to join New Charter in November 2005.
3. Raw Television is a multi-award winning production company specialising in great stories told with style. Formed in 2001, it works with broadcasters in both the US and UK.
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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