
September 21, 2010

Youngsters Make a Splash!

YOUNGSTERS from a supported housing scheme in Ashton took to the water over the summer holidays when they were provided with free swimming lessons by St Peters and Holy Trinity's Families and Schools Together (FAST) club.

On Friday Tameside's civic mayor, councillor Jean Brazil handed out certificates to the children Gibson Terrace, a supported scheme for families run by New Charter.

Even though many on the programme had never ventured further than the shallow end before, each of them managed to complete various distances up to a full kilometre!

And five of the children involved passed Kellogg's ASA Rainbow Swimming Award Scheme.

New Charter children's support and play worker Amanda Wolstenholme, said:

"Considering that many of these young people couldn't swim before starting the scheme, their achievements are outstanding.

"We also had some great support from parents who were up early each morning while the scheme was running. But the hard work was worth it – swimming is a valuable life skill and the scheme has also helped to boost the confidence and self esteem of everyone who took part.

Kevin Connaghan from FAST club was one of the instructors who put youngsters through their paces in daily swimming lessons at Ashton pool, along with Barry Ogden.

Kevin said: "The kids have been really responsive and we've built up a great relationship over the past few weeks."

Amanda added: "We couldn't have done this without the help of the FAST Club, who provided the sessions for free, and we'd also like to say a huge thanks to cllr Jean Brazil for handing out the certificates and coming to meet the children."



Young people from the scheme meet the mayor with their parents, staff from Gibson Terrace and FAST club workers

ENDS

WORDS: 273

Notes to 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. **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.

For More information contact Bob Clowrey at New Charter

robert.clowrey@newcharter.co.uk

Or telephone

0161 331 2370

ENDS