



Press release

Ref: GCH

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Successful 1st year for Cool Kids Crew Junior Wardens scheme

Junior Wardens from Matson and Robinswood enjoyed a farewell and congratulations event to mark the end of a successful year. The students from Robinswood Primary School enjoyed a day of laser-tag, a meal out and then a visit to Robinswood Farm as a thank you to all the hard work and time they have given to the Junior Warden scheme.

This is the first Junior Wardens scheme, launched in partnership with Gloucester City Homes (GCH), Gloucestershire Police and Matson and Robinswood Residents' Association. The aim of the scheme is to encourage children to become more involved in their community. It has proved to be a huge success not only with the children but for all those involved with the Cool Kidz Crew.

Throughout the year the Junior Wardens have learnt about road safety, street care, anti-social behaviour and environmental issues. They have taken part in events such as Grow your own, tree planting and even visited Gloucester Police HQ.

The Cool Kidz Crew have inspired another Junior Wardens scheme in White City called the Street Steppers which has also been a huge success in the area. The two projects have enabled young people to really make a difference in the area in which they live. Gloucester City Homes plans to develop the Junior Warden programme in more areas of the City. So look out for Junior Wardens in your area soon!

GCH Head of Resident Involvement and Community Investment Lisa Howarth says: 'The Cool Kidz Crew are a great example young people working positively in their community. It's great to see our Junior Wardens enjoying their role and they can be proud of their achievements.'

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Gloucester City Homes is a 2 star Arms Length Management Company, which provides housing management services to 4900 homes in Gloucester on behalf of the City Council. The company is carrying out a £40 million improvement programme to bring customers'

homes to the Decent Homes Standard. Since Gloucester City Homes was created in 2005 it has:

- Achieved a 2* rating (Good service) from the Audit Commission in June 2007
- Secured £39.6 million in Decent Homes funding to meet the Government's Decent Homes standard and completed improvements to over 3000 homes in the city
- Become the first housing provider in the county to achieve a Gold standard for its supporting people services
- Achieved Investors in People Gold Accreditation for performance management of our staff
- Achieved ISO 9001 for Quality Management systems, re-accredited again in September 2009 following re-inspection
- Achieved "managing for others" status with the Housing Corporation
- Achieved Investment Partner status with the Housing Corporation
- Implemented a programme of training for staff to achieve the Institute of Customer Service Awards
- Achieved the Customer Services Excellence Award in April 2009 and Special Recognition Award in October 2009
- Achieved the Equalities Framework Award April 2009.