

Press release

7th June 2006

Gold award for Hackney Homes' playgrounds

Bright and colourful paint, new play equipment and landscaping features have transformed previously uninviting play areas on estates into Gold award-winning places to play.

Hackney Homes has received a top Gold accolade from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for providing high quality play areas.

In addition Hackney Homes was granted five extra awards for the design of the play areas. The play areas marked out for special commendation are: Pitfields Estate, Nightingale Estate, Nelson Mandela, Nisbet House and Sherry's Wharf.

The awards acknowledge the high quality of these playgrounds. Hackney Homes has also received a RoSPA award for keeping playgrounds safe and well maintained as well as for excellence in promoting high play value with inclusion of disabled people.

In the past two years more than half of the play areas and ball parks on Hackney Homes estates have undergone a make-over. Not only do the play areas look appealing, they also have improved safety characteristics.

The work has involved the installation of new fences, park benches, play equipment, sports equipment such as basketball rings as well as painting and planting lawn and trees.

"We are delighted to have received this top accolade from RoSPA," said Steve Tucker Chief Executive Hackney Homes. "We're delighted that over the past year we have improved from silver to gold.

He adds: "We aim to provide attractive and friendly playgrounds that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. This year we will be refurbishing another 18 sites and maintaining the other sites to ensure they retain their current high standard."

Ends

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