

## Press release

16 October 2007

### **Premiership footballer swaps the big stage for Frampton Park Estate**

Young people on Frampton Park Estate were in the company of top class footballers last Sunday when Wigan Athletic defender, Fitz Hall dropped by to launch his new sports, dance and music initiative: A-Star.

Born and bred in East London, Hall chose to launch A-Star on a Hackney Homes estate because he wants to give young people the opportunity to showcase their talents to peers and potential scouts.

“There is so much talent on our estates but our youngsters don’t get an opportunity to show this off on a bigger arena”.

Young people from the estates took part in 5 a side football games, dancers entertained the crowd and freestylers showed off their ball skills. There were also performances from some of East London’s finest talent including MC Lush and Iceberg Slimm.

The A-Star initiative is supported by Premiership footballers including Micah Richards, Leighton Baines and Emile Heskey who are showing their commitment to grassroots football.

“I want young people to know that we care about them. I did not get into football until I was 21 and it was in spite of many people telling me that it would never happen. With A-Star, my main message to young people is if you want to succeed, don’t let anything stop you, Hall said”.

### **Ends**

**Press queries to Olaide Oyekanmi on 0208 356 3522, 0777 2565514 or email [Olaide.Oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk](mailto:Olaide.Oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk)**

### **Notes to Editors**

**Picture 1:** Fitz Hall, Wigan Athletic defender with footballers from Frampton Park Estate

**Picture 2:** Fitz Hall, Wigan Athletic defender on Frampton Park Estate

**Picture 3:** Lee Hayes, 18, Freestyler from Homerton shows off his ball skills