

## Press release

10<sup>th</sup> March 2008

### **Hackney Homes tenant praises anti-social behaviour project for ‘turning her life around’**

Anti-social behaviour affects everyone in our community. That is why Hackney Homes is committed to working with residents to tackle the causes of their behaviour and help them lead better lives.

Deborah from Stamford Hill has lived in Hackney for over seven years and had received complaints about nuisance and anti-social behaviour taking place in her home. She was at risk of losing her home and did not know who or where to turn to.

“It was a horrible time. I knew what the problem was but I did not think anyone would listen to me and offer me help” said Deborah.

At the launch event of Hackney Family Intensive Support Project (FISP), a joint Hackney Homes and children’s charity, NCH project, Deborah told guests from government and local organisations about how the project has worked with her family to support them to make changes to their life.

“FISP has been a breath of fresh air to my life. My son has not been involved in any trouble for a few months now and I have just gained a qualification to help me further my career in care”.

Hackney FISP uses innovative new schemes to change the behaviour of families at risk of losing their homes because of their anti-social behaviour. Everything from parenting classes, help with employment training, healthy eating and dealing with debt are all areas that FISP can address with families.

Also in attendance at the launch event were Donna Molloy from the Government Families Task Force, Hugh Thornbery, Strategic Director for NCH, Hazel Simmonds, Assistant Director for Safer Neighbourhoods at Hackney Council and Rupert Tyson, Chair of Hackney Homes.

Mr Tyson said: “There are often deep rooted reasons why families cause anti-social behaviour on our estates. Tackling the causes of these will not only help them to lead better and productive lives, it will benefit the whole community. Hackney Homes is committed to working with NCH to support this vital project and getting real results for families.”

Hugh Thornbery, Strategic Director for NCH said: “We’re very pleased to be launching this project in partnership with Hackney Homes. We know from

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Our mission is to deliver excellent, responsive housing services with decent homes and estates. To help residents lead healthy lives in safe and sustainable communities.

experience that most of the families we work with don't want to be living the way they are but they don't know how to turn things around. NCH has developed a tried and tested way of working which not only empowers families by building confidence and skills but challenges bad behaviour and creates positive changes as well."

Ends

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### **Notes to Editors**

1. The launch event took place at The Ocean, 270 Mare Street, Hackney, London E8 1HE
2. 'Anti-social Behaviour Intensive Family Support Projects', commissioned by the DCLG, research undertaken by Sheffield Hallam University. The findings in the report are based on 256 families consisting of 370 adults and 743 children who had worked with the projects during the period 2003-2005. NCH services based in Blackburn with Darwen, Bolton, Manchester, Oldham and Salford are evaluated.
3. The support on offer at Hackney FISP starts once the family has agreed to set up an individual contract. They can expect long term intensive support which will be carried out in partnership with other agencies working with the family through a formal support planning process. The length of time a team member spends with the family will depend upon the severity of the issues and how long it takes to change the behaviour.
3. There are currently 14 families on the books but around 20 families will be helped at any one time. Families must be referred by one of several agencies in the borough such as Housing, ASBIST, Youth Offending Team, Health and Children's Social care, Police and The Learning Trust.
4. Hackney Homes is an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) launched in April 2006 to manage the Council's social housing stock. Hackney Homes is led by a board which includes residents, councillors and independent representatives and is responsible for managing 22,000 tenanted properties and 8,000 leasehold properties in the borough. For further information visit [www.hackneyhomes.org.uk](http://www.hackneyhomes.org.uk)

5. NCH runs four intensive family support projects in London working to help families at risk of eviction change their behaviour. There are 12 of these projects in the UK.

6. NCH is one of the UK's leading children's charities, working in partnership to run nearly 500 services for more than 178,000 of the UK's most vulnerable children, young people and their families.

7. NCH was previously known as National Children's Home. It rebranded in 2000 to become NCH, the children's charity. For further information visit [www.nch.org.uk](http://www.nch.org.uk)