

Press release

12 May 2008

Construction trainees make the grade on Woodberry Down

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Woodberry Works trainees will be available for photos from 12:30pm on Wednesday 21st May. The official graduation ceremony will start at 11am.

Following a year of hard work, learning and mentoring, fourteen trainees from the Woodberry Works construction centre will graduate next week with an industry recognised qualification and vital working experience.

All local to Hackney, the trainees will be equipped with a City and Guilds Level 1 and a Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS) Card to enable them to work as soon as they graduate.

Six of the trainees are local women who have successfully completed a 'Women's DIY' course which provides them with practical training in painting and decorating, electrics, plumbing and carpentry. Also important is the support and information they have received so that they can be confident when entering into the male-dominated world of construction.

They will then have a better chance to gain employment within the construction industry and will be in good stead to take advantage of opportunities which will arise from the Woodberry Down regeneration and the 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games.

Patrick Crawford, a trainee who will graduate next week is pleased with the skills that he has learnt. He said: "Woodberry Works is a great opportunity for anyone interested in taking a career in construction seriously. You get to learn the theory and then straight away, you can practice what you have learnt in the empty flats on the estate. I have learnt so much and I am looking forward to getting a foot into my career of choice."

Woodberry Down Programme Director Robin Smith said: "Woodberry Works is an important part of the community regeneration of Woodberry Down. This will ensure residents play an active role in the redevelopment of their community."

Ends

Notes to Editors

- Woodberry Works is a partnership between Hackney Homes, Woodberry Down Regeneration Team, Berkeley Homes, Circle Anglia, SRB6, London Development Authority (LDA), Hackney Community College, Access to

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.

Employment and Metropolitan Housing Trust. The centre has been funded by SRB6 Programme, London Borough of Hackney, Olympics Funding and the LDA.

- Out of the fourteen trainees graduating, eight have completed an Introductory Certificate in Basic Construction Skills course delivered by Hackney Community College. Six have completed a Women's DIY course delivered by Women and Manual Trades.
- Enrolment for new trainees to start in June 2008 will take place from 1:30pm on 21st May at the Woodberry Works Construction Centre, Newnton Close.
- Further information about Woodberry Works is available via the Hackney Homes website at www.hackneyhomes.org.uk and click on the link for Woodberry Down.

Ends

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