

Golden Gates Housing Trust press release

1 September 2011



You're Hired - Golden Gates Housing Trust and Partners Recruit New Apprentices and Trainees

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) Chief Executive Peter Mercer was on hand this week to say "you're hired", as the Trust celebrated the recruitment of 10 new apprentices. The new recruits were joined at a welcome event by three of the apprentices and trainees employed on the GGHT contract by Bramall Construction, including Gareth Williams, who was recently named 'Apprentice of the Year' at a national awards ceremony.

The new apprentices will work in a range of specialist roles including housing management, business administration, plumbing, plastering and joinery for the next three years. GGHT are working in partnership with Warrington Collegiate to provide the apprentices with training and qualifications in their chosen profession.

Bramall Construction is working with GGHT to deliver key elements of the Trust's capital investment programme, installing new bathrooms, central heating systems, windows and doors. They will be increasing their number of Warrington apprentices and trainees to eight by the end of September.

GGHT made a commitment to its tenants when it transferred in November last year that they would create employment opportunities for the local community. The recruitment campaign attracted an overwhelming response with over 1,600 people registering their interest and over 1,100 completing applications for the roles. Over half of all respondents were from Warrington and one in seven were from applicants who live in a GGHT property.

GGHT used social networking site Facebook for the first time to promote these opportunities, helping to target women who are traditionally unrepresented in applying for trades roles such as electricians, plasterers, joiners and plumbers. As a result the Trust saw a significant increase in the number of women applying for these traditionally male roles.

GGHT Chief Executive, Peter Mercer said: “It was fantastic to see such a positive response to our recruitment campaign. We are committed to supporting the local economy and providing opportunities for people to get into work. Of those appointed, six were previously unemployed and two have just left school.”

New apprentice, Jack Hodgkiss said: “I am a school leaver and my ambition has always been to get a trade I am really looking forward to starting my apprenticeship as a Plumber with GGHT.”

-ENDS-

For further information contact Neil Martin, Communications and Involvement Manager neil.martin@gght.org.uk or phone 0800 25 26 27

About Golden Gates Housing Trust

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) launched on 29 November 2010, formed as part of the Stock Transfer of 8,700 homes from Warrington Borough Council. The transfer converted the successful Arms Length Management Organisation Golden Gates Housing into a registered provider of social housing.

GGHT will be investing around £105M in tenants’ homes and neighbourhoods over the first 5 years and £530M over 30 years to deliver the “Warrington Standard”. This Standard has been developed by GGHT’s tenants to ensure that improvements and investment is prioritised in the areas that tenants have said are a priority. Plans include the installation of double glazing and secured front and rear doors in all properties over the next five years as well as environmental improvements such as fencing, gates and lighting.

About Bramall

Bramall Construction is part of the Keepmoat Group, a highly successful community regeneration organisation with a turnover of more than £560 million a year.

Other group companies include of Frank Haslam Milan, Keepmoat Homes. Bramall Construction specialises in delivering innovative solutions to the refurbishment and new build of the social housing market.

The company works throughout Yorkshire, Wales, Humberside, East Midlands and the North West. Since its beginning in 1931, the Bramall Construction has grown into a progressive and forward thinking construction organisation with a turnover of more than £200 million a year.

