

Golden Gates Housing Trust press release

23 September 2011



Youngsters show Warrington Has Got Talent!

Residents young and old packed into the Parr Hall in Warrington on Saturday 17 September as the 2011 Warrington's Got Talent competition reached a thrilling climax. The final saw 22 talented acts from across Warrington compete to be crowned winners in the 5-11 and 12-19 year old age categories.

Now in its second year, the event is organised by **Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT)**, with support from Arena Homes, Warrington Federation, Stronger Together in Warrington and Cheshire Police.

This year's event attracted entries from over 100 acts, with regional heats held between May and June to select the best 22 performers to compete in the grand final. The final acts performed to a capacity crowd and were judged by representatives from Cheshire Police, Radio Warrington, Golden Gates Housing Trust Board of Directors, Blue Vine Records and a previous cast member of Wicked from London's West End.

The 5-11 year old category was won by Lucy Hayes, a classical singer from Penketh who performed a song from Les Miserables. The 12-19 year old category was won by Mario Smooth, a unique mixed routine dancer from Latchford. The winners received cash prizes presented by the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Mike Biggin. They will also be given the opportunity to perform live during the half-time interval of a Warrington Wolves game in the next 12 months and have been invited to perform at the Longford Community Day at Fordton Leisure Centre on Saturday 8 October 2011.

Peter Mercer, **Chief Executive of GGHT**, said: "It was fantastic to see such a

large number of young people enter this year's competition and the quality of acts that got through to the final was evidence that Warrington really has got talent.

"It's an honour to work alongside such talented and inspirational young people and we'll continue to work with our partners to engage with and support all of our young people as we strive to improve and develop their neighbourhoods."

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For further information contact Neil Martin, Communications and Involvement Manager communications@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, path and lighting.