

Press Release November 2009

New Progress Smart Home Event

New Progress Housing Association held an open day on Friday 20th November to showcase their Smart Home in Leyland, Lancashire.

The event was designed to inform residents and stakeholders about the technology available to assist individuals at home and to promote the opportunity of independent living.

Steven Mckiernan, Telecare Services Manager, New Progress HA commented – "We work closely with our customers, wherever possible, to ensure that we involve them in the process of finding their own solution to independent living.

"We want to empower our customers, by giving them access to the technology that is available to them, and we aim to provide a progressive service which promotes fulfilling and independent living."

New Progress Housing Association purchase the telecare equipment demonstrated on Friday via the Assistive Technology framework offered by Consortium Procurement the Northern Housing Consortium's commercial services team.

The Assistive Technology Framework allows Northern Housing Consortium Members to purchase telecare equipment without the need for an individual tender and by utilising this procurement route New Progress Housing Association saved over £24,000.00 in 2008/09. This saving allows a greater number of telecare services to be provided to residents of New Progress Housing.

New Progress Housing has also worked closely with the Northern Housing Consortium to arrange the provision of telecare training sessions for employees.

The Assistive Technology Framework is an integral part of an ongoing project 'Age Friendly Communities in the North: People and Places 2020'. The final report for this project, sponsored by Keepmoat and supported by Tunstall, will be launched at a dedicated event 26th January 2010 at York Racecourse.

If you would like to obtain further information about the Assistive Technology procurement framework or the 'Age Friendly Communities in the North: People and Places 2020' project please contact 0191 566 1000 or enquires@northern-consortium.org.uk.

Ends

Notes to editors

1. The Northern Housing Consortium is a non-political, not for profit, member based organisation, whose members between them manage almost 90% of social housing in the North. Our main roles are:
 - To provide a comprehensive range of timely, relevant and affordable services for members with a distinct focus on Northern issues

- To take a lead role in enabling the improvement of housing and organisational performance in the North
- To work with Government and other bodies to ensure the region benefits from the resources and funding available to provide safe, vibrant, sustainable communities

Our provision of support is delivered across four themed areas: Quality of Life, Quality of Place, Performance Improvement and Investment & Resources.

2. Operating on a national level, Consortium Procurement is the collaborative purchasing team of the Northern Housing Consortium, responsible for the development and delivery of business solutions to meet the needs of our membership.
3. Frameworks are compliant with EU Procurement Directives.
4. Frameworks are accessible by current or future Members of the Northern Housing Consortium.
5. Consortium Procurement currently offers Members total of 13 frameworks.
6. New Progress Housing Association provides high quality homes and housing management for communities across the North West.
7. New Progress Housing Association took the transfer of the entire housing stock of South Ribble Borough Council in 1994 and since then have grown by building and acquiring new stock.
8. New Progress HA now own and/or manage around 4,000 properties across the North West including homes for rent, sheltered housing, supported accommodation for people experiencing homelessness, and leasehold accommodation.