

Press Release

**Release Number: 22
For immediate release**

30 May 2013

£100k regeneration of community facilities at Hackney housing scheme complete

Southern Housing Group has completed the regeneration of the multi-use games area (MUGA) at its Charterhouse Road housing development in Hackney thanks to a £50,000 grant from the Mayor of London's Facility Fund for sports development.

The redevelopment of the MUGA sees the completion of over £100,000 of investment by Southern Housing Group to improve the community facilities at the Charterhouse Road scheme. This has included:

- developing a community food garden;
- a complete refurbishment of the community centre;
- the redevelopment of the MUGA;
- the addition of an outside gym and sports equipment to the external spaces of the community centre;
- weekly sporting activities for residents; and,
- development of Community Sports Leaders programme which will be able to sustain the legacy of the programme.

To celebrate the completion of work, residents were invited to attend an official opening of the facilities on Wednesday 22 May.

Access to Sports, the sports provider for this project, gave demonstrations of the different equipment now available to residents. Young residents who have been taking sports classes with Access held a sports skills master class to show what they have learned so far. Local entertainer, Mr Mojo, was also on hand to get everyone on their feet and moving about.

Dirk Lampe, Environmental Project Manager at Southern Housing Group, said, "We are so pleased to have received the support and funding to complete the work at Charterhouse Road. The redeveloped community facilities will make a real difference to residents of all ages at Charterhouse Road. By

encouraging residents to get involved in sport we are encouraging healthier lifestyles and providing fun ways for residents to meet and get to know their neighbours. I'd also like to thank the residents who have been involved throughout the project, helping to shape what the facilities would offer and look like. Their support and feedback has been brilliant."

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson, said, "Following the huge success of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games I'm determined to continue to improve sporting opportunities across the capital and help encourage many more Londoners into sport. I'm absolutely delighted to support Southern Housing Group to boost its facilities at Charterhouse Road and I'd encourage people of all ages to check out what's on offer right on their doorstep."

The MUGA project is designed and delivered by Southern Housing Group in partnership with What if: projects Ltd, an architecture practice based in Hackney that specialises in creating sustainable urban environments through engagement with the local community.

-Ends-

For further media enquiries, please contact Alice Williams at Southern Housing Group on 0207 553 3898 or

e-mail alice.williams@shgroup.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Over the last 110 years, Southern Housing Group has become one of the largest housing associations in the south of England, housing 66,000 residents, managing more than 25,500 homes, employing almost 800 people and working with more than 70 local authorities across the South East, including the Isle of Wight.
- Our mission of 'Unlocking the potential of people and places' unites the organisation behind a common set of qualities and objectives.
- Our activities focus on four key areas: the development of quality affordable housing; housing and neighbourhood management; a range of housing options for rent and home ownership; and social and economic regeneration.
- Our social and economic regeneration work is undertaken to improve the lives of residents in the communities and neighbourhoods where we build and manage homes. It provides tangible evidence of our commitment to building sustainable communities.
- Southern Housing Group is a member of the g15, which represents London's 15 largest housing associations. The g15 houses one in ten Londoners and

builds a quarter of London's new homes. We are working to solve the housing crisis by delivering good quality, affordable homes of all types. To find out more about the g15's work please visit www.g15.org.uk

About Charterhouse Road

The Charterhouse Road scheme is 225 homes, and was itself extensively rebuilt by Southern Housing Group 10 years ago with a traditional estate giving way to a street based scheme. The community facilities are located on Charterhouse Road E8 2RE. Funding for the redevelopment of these facilities has been provided by Southern Housing Group, the Mayor of London's Facility Fund and the Lottery fund.

About the Mayor of London's facility fund

Over the past three years, the Mayor's Sports Legacy Programme has led to an investment of over £40m (£15.5m Mayoral funding; £25m+ match funding) into community sport in London.

The Mayor's Sports Legacy Programme has three main strands. Progress to date includes:

Facilities fund:

77 sports facilities across London to date, doubling user capacity.

Skills fund:

Over 13,000 coaches trained in a range of sports. Each coach will undertake a minimum of 20 volunteer hours as part of their training commitment.

Sporting activities:

£4 million allocated to 35 sporting projects across London ranging from athletics to zumba.

Mobile pools programme is helping 12,000 people learn to swim.

Projects are increasing sports participation and addressing wider social issues, such as improving health, education rates, helping people into training and work; and tackling crime.

Freesport

The Mayor is calling on Londoners to try their hand at a sport they may not have tried before for free as part of his Freesport programme, which is aimed at boosting interest and participation in sport before, during and after the Games. Around 130 locations across the capital will be open to the public for the initiative.

Each year Freesport gives around 250 of the capital's sports clubs grants of up to £1500 to allow them to open their doors and offer six hours of free coaching 'taster' sessions to Londoners of all ages.

For media enquiries contact communications@shgroup.org.uk or call the Communications Team on 020 7017 8521. Find out more about Southern Housing Group at www.shgroup.org.uk