



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Tool bags for trainees**

12<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Robert Price Builders' Merchants today presented tool bags to seven construction apprentices working for Newport City Homes (NCH) under the Construction Youth Trust, 'The Real Apprentice' project.

Coming from varied backgrounds, the trainees are aged between 18 and 22 years old, and were picked from a large number of hopefuls who all 'auditioned' for the chance to become the next 'Real Apprentice'. The winner, chosen on the basis of their effort, commitment, determination and talent will be offered an official apprenticeship with Newport City Homes. Lisa Brown of Construction Youth Trust said: "Choosing a winner is going to be difficult as they all have fantastic motivation and enthusiasm. They very often arrive early and leave late." The previous 'Real Apprentice', which took place in Rhondda Cynon Taff, was so successful that all five of the participants went on to be offered apprenticeships demonstrating that these projects are definitely proving to be a case of 'The Real Apprentice – You're Hired!'

During the eight week project, the trainees are undertaking the renovation of two retirement flats at Raglan Court, Pill, Newport. The work they are undertaking includes plastering, re-wiring, plumbing, kitchen & bathroom fitting and even the interior design of the finished flats. Ashley Brunnock, 19, said: "This experience should open a lot of doors for us with regards to future employment. It's really great to get involved with the community and for the elderly to see us youngsters working hard to improve the environment in which they live. We are really grateful to Robert Price for donating the tool bags which will really help us in our day-to-day work".

As well as the training the apprentices are receiving on site they have also all undertaken Health & Safety, Manual Handling and Exposure to Asbestos training. They are also being given the task of working with a budget. They have £200 per flat with which they have to decorate and furnish the properties using as many recycled or free products as they can.

Dave Pattison, Public Sector Coordinator for Robert Price Builders' Merchants explained that "being a local company we are very aware of our responsibility to the communities within which we are based. We are really pleased to be able to offer these tool bags to the NCH trainees and ensure that the construction industry continues to improve with the help of these up and coming apprentices."

Ends



Left to right: Ben Setterfield, Kyle Jarvis, Richard Davies, Daniel Jarvis, Craig Simpson, Ashley Brunnock, Matthew Powell (NCH Trainees)



Left to right: David Pattison (Public Sector Coordinator, Robert Price Builders' Merchants), Kyle Jarvis (NCH Trainee), Lisa Brown (Construction Youth Trust)

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