

Press Release
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Housing association helps local couple get onto the property ladder



Melin Homes has helped a young couple buy their first home thanks to Help2Own – the low-cost home ownership scheme that it runs in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council.

Teaching assistant Justine Drew, aged 21, and her boyfriend Rhys Whitcombe, aged 24, currently live separately. The couple wanted to buy a home together and stay in the local area, but thought it would take them years before they would be able to afford to do this. However, thanks to Help2Own, the pair have just bought a new three-bedroom home at Hanbury Grove, Pontypool.

This initiative requires homebuyers to pay for just a percentage of the total house price with Melin providing an interest-free loan for the remaining percentage. This type of home-buying requires no monthly payments to be made to Melin and the percentage is only recouped if the property is re-sold at a later date. This enables future buyers to take advantage of the discount which remains with the property.

Justine said: “We feel so lucky to be able to buy our first home together. We thought this wouldn’t happen for years but, thanks to the Help2Own scheme,

we don't have to save up for a 100% mortgage. We were so excited when we found out that we'd got the house at Hanbury Grove, and we really can't wait to move in now!"

Hanbury Grove is a Leadbitter Construction housing development situated on Edward Street, Pontypool. Melin has 14 homes under development at the site which will be ready from the end of March 2009.

For more information about the current low-cost homes that Melin has for sale, please contact Melin's Home Ownership Team on 01495 745925/ 928 or email homes@melinhomes.co.uk

For more information about the Help2Own scheme, please contact Torfaen Council on 01495 742629 or email joanne.lewis-jones@torfaen.gov.uk

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Photo caption: Melin helps a local couple onto the property ladder

For more information please contact Laura Maddrell, Communications Officer, on 01495 745929 or email laura.maddrell@melinhomes.co.uk

Notes to editors:

Melin Homes is a not-for-profit landlord providing quality homes and services across Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys and Torfaen. For further information please visit www.melinhomes.co.uk