



Press Release
19th March 2008

Housing association helps resident back to work

An Abergavenny single-mother has seized the chance to kick-start her career thanks to her landlord, Melin Homes.

Marianne Clarke was able to enrol on courses to increase her career skills with Melin's education bursary. She is now celebrating her new job as a Beauty Therapist at the popular town salon, Bliss.

Melin's education bursary programme provides up to £3,000 per year to help its residents pursue further education or personal development goals. Many of the recipients are returning to education for the first time since leaving school, some having left with few or no qualifications.

The bursary has helped previous recipients pay course fees, buy books and computers and fund travel expenses to or from universities and colleges. This year Marianne was one of three residents to receive a bursary and she plans to use the £500 to take a course in Hot Stone Therapy.

Melin Homes Chief Executive Mark Gardner said: "I am thrilled to see the real-life benefits of our Education Bursary. It is just one of many initiatives we have put in place aimed at making a positive difference to the communities we operate in and to the people we serve."

Marianne said: "The Education Bursary has really set me on the road to success and has been instrumental in helping me to get back into my chosen career and is offering me even more opportunities."

Applicants are now being invited for this year's bursary so if you are a Melin resident school-aged and over and would like help to pursue your chosen career or do some

vocational training please contact us for details – 08453 101102. The closing date for applications is 31 May 2008.

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For more information please contact Sam Muftuoglu, Communications Officer on 01495 745929 or email sam@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