

17 October 2008



Melin Homes reaches final of national housing award



Photo captions: A day out at Llangorse Rope and Riding Centre and a VIP trip to Newport County Football Club are just some of the many activities run by Melin Homes.

A youth sports initiative which has helped over 300 8 – 16 year olds access sports and activities has reached the final of the UK Housing Awards 2008 in the 'Outstanding achievement in housing in Wales' category.

Developed by Melin Homes' Community Development Team, the initiative encourages youngsters to get active and provides them with the opportunity to try a range of activities including football, rugby, tennis, fishing, rock climbing and bowls with outstanding results.

In addition to providing a healthy focus it helps to foster good citizenship and improve community relations.

Community Development Officer, Karen Green explained: "Through developing our own programme we have helped young people channel their energy into a whole range of activities with incredibly positive results. It has helped to tackle social exclusion, encourage healthier lifestyles, promote positive values like fair play and respect and build self-confidence. In turn this has enhanced the quality of life on our estates and in the surrounding neighbourhoods."

Melin's Director of Housing, Alan Sinclair is thrilled to be in the running for an award. He said: "In addition to providing homes for people, we are committed to making a positive difference in the communities where we operate. To reach the final demonstrates what a huge difference our sports initiative is making both to our younger residents and the communities they live in."

The winner will be announced at a special award ceremony in London next month.

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