

**Iconic London Landmark Reopens
to Provide Fresh Hope for Homeless
- defining a world class model for community living
Reopening 10th June 2010**

Camden, London: The refurbished iconic London landmark, Arlington – to be opened by Boris Johnson on 10th June – will be a UK flagship scheme for a new era in community living.

Arlington will house:

- 95 residential units for the homeless
- on site work experience, training and vocational opportunities in building/catering/arts and business for the homeless residents
- 35 low-rent apartments at £119/week rent
- state-of-the-art conference facilities for business
- a restaurant for residents, staff and the public

With all users entering through the same arched-entrance, Arlington's holistic approach aims to provide more of a home environment for residents, integrating them within the community and providing the opportunity for real independence for the socially excluded. It is a clear and definite move away from institutional and stereotypical approach to housing for the homeless. Arlington is an original, inspirational and aspirational building. Written about by George Orwell and featured in lyrics by Madness, Arlington was originally built in 1905.

Proof that with vision you can do things differently, the new Arlington community comprises residency for the homeless (which the site is traditionally known for) with employment and training opportunities, artists studios, state-of-the art conference facilities and low-rent housing for workers. It is a fresh, contemporary and unique project which will transform the UK's approach to homelessness and community life.

The vision for the new Arlington was developed through a partnership between One Housing Group, Camden Council and the government and its component parts reflect Camden's Pathways approach to tackling homelessness and the government's Places of Change programme for hostels.

The team at One Housing consulted with and took inspiration for the development from projects around the world, including New York City's Times Square scheme, to provide a world class facility. Chair of One Housing Baroness Julia Neuberger's vision to reduce homelessness is a step closer to reality with the relaunch of Arlington and the unique community approach.

Kevin Beirne, Group Director of Housing Care and Support for One Housing comments: "With the smart re-design of the building and expert facilities management in place we feel confident we can provide a home environment for residents, as well as training and employment opportunities, professional services to businesses, a relaxing restaurant environment for all users of the building and a desirable living environment/building for the low-rent workers. We are excited to be charting the unknown and we are fully prepared for the challenges of managing an integrated site."

Nick Taylor, HCA's Head of Area for North London commented: "This unique scheme will help those rough sleepers who slip through the net for conventional homelessness support. It is another example of the HCA looking to identify a range of approaches to combat rough sleeping through the Places of Change programme, which is helping individuals make the transition from the street to a settled home."

Councillor Julian Fulbrook, Cabinet Member for Housing, Camden Council comments: "Camden is very pleased to have worked with government and OHG to transform Arlington House, which makes a major contribution to our vision for Camden Town. The building now offers a wide range of provision, from accommodation, training and employment opportunities to support services for homeless people in Camden's Hostels Pathway and much needed rented units for modestly paid workers."

ARLINGTON SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

95 residential units are available for homeless people, who are referred through Camden's 'Pathway' programme. Arlington seeks to support people with whatever life challenges they have and if they choose in time, give them the skills to sustain their future independence.

The 95 units have a high quality finish and have been carefully designed to raise residents aspirations, providing them with a positive environment in which to live.

FLATS FOR RENT AT ARLINGTON

The site will also provide local workers with a great opportunity to rent one of the 35 studio apartments from as little as £119/week rent.

SOCIAL ECONOMY AT ARLINGTON

A key part of the development is the integrated community and support for residents. At Arlington, One Housing Group is working with a group of carefully chosen, committed and passionate specialist partners to provide residents the opportunity to re-skill and develop a route out of homelessness:

- As well as the on site professional catering and restaurant facilities with good food and quality service, **City Dining** were particularly keen to participate in a project where they could offer training and apprenticeships. City Dining will provide catering apprenticeship and employment opportunities for residents, whether that is basic

cooking skills for their own independence or moving towards professional qualifications. Potentially refreshing dormant skills of residents who have worked in the past in a professional catering environment. Working with Hackney Community College, residents can achieve NVQ level 1-5 through the City Dining scheme.

- Award winning **Lakehouse**, Contractor of the Year 2010, will provide construction apprenticeships through its Building Lives Training Academy. Arlington residents, and others in need of access to opportunity, will be able to gain taster and short courses in various trades, with links into employment. The academy is working closely with the Building Crafts College to deliver training in crafts such as plastering, plumbing, painting and decorating, and electrics to City and Guilds Level 1. Lakehouse will be providing job opportunities in the local area. The academy has the support of a range of supply chain partners who will be providing innovative new training, including 'green' skills.
- The homeless charity **Broadway** will provide support for residents and those in the local area in the form of mentoring and professional guidance to help people become job ready. Equipping them with the support to access work and training opportunities, providing professional advice such as advice on punctuality, how to treat colleagues, writing CVs, interview practice and careers advice.
- **SPACE** will provide an art studio and creative space for residents providing therapeutic and creative activities. Artist in residence is Ania Dabrowska winner of Observer Hodge photographic award. Ania will run her own professional studio as well as workshops for those wishing to develop photographic and creative writing skills.

ARLINGTON FOR BUSINESSES

The conference facilities at Arlington can cater for a range of business needs from small meetings of up to 10 people to large conferences for up to 300 people. The rooms have state-of-art audio visual equipment and businesses can expect uniformed staff, flowers, refreshments and catering provided on site. Arlington is already taking bookings for conference, as a new mood in the business world sees companies wanting to be more socially responsible and support the philosophy of Arlington.

All profits from the conference facilities will be reinvested into the Arlington project, for example to help fund the programme run by Broadway.

ARLINGTON FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The local Camden and London community can make use of the restaurant at any time and the state of art kitchen has the potential for 500 covers.

-Ends -

ARLINGTON FACTS

The site will house:

- 95 residential units for homeless people
- 35 flats for intermediate rent
- 3000m² of social enterprise and training space
- conference and business support facilities
- on site restaurant, open to the general public
- A surgery in partnership with the PCT
- Opened in 1905, Arlington originally housed 1000 men, many of whom built the London Underground
- Architects Levitt Bernstein's refurbishment has been delivered according to BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Very Good Rating standards and includes Green Sedum planted roofs, low water usage toilets, low energy lighting, a wood chip biomass boiler, and full facilities for bicycle users including undercover storage and changing room

Editor's Notes:

Arlington

Arlington is located on Arlington Street in Camden and opened in 1905. The scheme has benefited from substantial investment from Communities and Local Government (CLG) of £12.8m under the Hostels Capital Improvement Programme (now known as the Places of Change Programme, managed by the Homes and Communities Agency). This is the largest scheme in this national programme.

Camden Council approved planning permission for the refurbished development of Arlington in October 2007 and provides Supporting People funding to the hostel.

One Housing Group

One Housing Group is a not for profit housing association.

One Housing Group currently manages over 12,000 homes in 26 local authorities across London and adjacent counties, with over 2,700 homes in the development pipeline. These include shared ownership schemes; intermediate rent homes for key workers, affordable rented homes and homes for outright sale.

Community Housing Association, Island Homes and Tonybee Housing Association joined to form One Housing Group in September 2007.

One Support is the Group's housing care and support arm. With a reputation for providing high quality modern supported housing and services, One Support has been the biggest developer of supported housing in London for the last 5 years.

Visit www.onehousinggroup.co.uk, www.camden.gov.uk, or www.homesandcommunities.co.uk for further information.

SPACE provides support and resources to artists to make the great art of our day. We are one of the largest arts organisations in England and have been at the vanguard in promoting the role of artists in society since our inception in 1968.

We provide platforms which enable creative people to experiment, develop and thrive, and for a broad public to engage with this creativity. As a result of our activities we cultivate the growth of individuals, support the arts to flourish and nurture a creative, vibrant society.

SPACE supports a community of over 600 studio artists ranging from the emerging to the established. We run exhibitions, artists' residencies, Media Arts projects and training, and the Learning and Participation Programme.

www.spacestudios.org.uk

Places of Change is an £80m capital improvement funding programme managed by the Homes and Communities Agency, which seeks to improve services for people who are homeless. It aims to identify, encourage, engage and release their potential to enable them to move on with their lives. It encourages service users to get involved in services that will help them turn their lives around.

The programme currently funds 95 projects in 62 areas nationwide with a wealth of innovation that includes social enterprise initiatives such as Crisis's Skylight cafes in Newcastle and London; a butchery and farm shop at the Pilsdon community in Dorset, as well as a variety of training activities and embedded learning such as a recording studio at Endell Street in London; and a café/training kitchen and small theatre at Leicester YMCA.

For more information visit

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/places_of_change