



communityaction



Press release

For immediate release

25 November 2008

**One Housing Group launches workshops to help residents
in East London tackle financial exclusion**

Thanks to funding from Barclays, One Housing Group (OHG) will be running a series of workshops aiming to empower their residents living in East London and equip them with improved financial awareness and skills.

Starting on 2 December, the workshops will be offered to OHG residents living in East London boroughs such as Newham and Tower Hamlets that are at risk from financial exclusion, whether through lack of available information or lack of confidence when it comes to managing their finances.

Barclays are providing Community Action, One Housing Group's charitable arm, with a staggering £22k to fund the workshops. Community Action are working with a number of financial service partners and advisory partners to provide the sessions, such as local Credit Unions, One Housing Group, Services Against Financial Inclusion (SAFE) and Change and Development. The programme will also include a series of one day seminars and workshops for young people aged 13-19 through youth club sessions.

Tower Hamlets incorporates some of the UK's most deprived wards in terms of financial exclusion. In a survey conducted by One Housing Group almost a third (28%) of residents living in Tower Hamlets and Newham requested financial advice and guidance, showing that there is a real need for action.

Peter Higgins, Assistant Director of Community Investment and Service Improvement at One Housing Group said: "Financial exclusion is more widespread in some parts of London than many of us realise. Of the 600 new tenancies that OHG have granted over the last three years more than a third of tenants did not have bank accounts. We are

determined to tackle this problem and provide financially excluded residents in East London with the information and support they require to enable them effectively manage their own finances. We would like to thank Barclays for their generous donation, which is enabling us to deliver this programme and take the first step towards achieving this objective.”

Libby Raybould, Community Relations Manager for London and Southern at Barclays said “Barclays is delighted to support this important and valuable project. Our community investment programme focuses on using our knowledge and expertise to tackle critical social issues, including improving financial literacy and enabling people to take control of their monetary situations. We are really pleased to work with Community Action and know that this programme will benefit both residents and the community as a whole.”

Ends

For further information on One Housing Group please contact Fiona Crook, Marketing & PR Officer on 020 7428 4107 or email fcrook@onehousinggroup.co.uk

For more information on Barclays community investment programme please contact Libby Raybould, Community Relations Manager on 020 7116 6603.

Notes to Editors:

Barclays:

At Barclays, we take our responsibilities seriously. We’re really proud of our leading community investment programme which added up to £52.4 million in 2007.

- Over 43,000 of our people were involved in fundraising or volunteering in their communities.
- We supported over 7,000 charities around the world.
- Over the last 5 years Barclays people have raised over £60 million for their favourite charities with our help and matched fundraising.

About One Housing Group

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 affordable rented homes, shared ownership schemes, intermediate rent homes for key workers, and homes for private sale. All new schemes look at the need for balanced communities and therefore include a mixture of tenures and uses.

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

Visit www.onehousinggroup.co.uk for further information.