



**Press release**

**For immediate release**

**20 July 2009**

**One Housing Group takes an innovative approach to  
tackling youth knife and gun crime**

Having experienced first hand the nonchalant attitude of young people towards knife and gun crime, One Housing Group's Youth Services Team are holding a concert to tackle this ever increasing problem.

Building on the success of last year's event, the "One Mic, One Life" concert will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> July at the Shaw Theatre. It will bring together young people from all youth clubs and youth orientated organisations and projects in the Camden area, in the aim of breaking down the rivalry and territorialism that exists between groups. Promoted by youth clubs and organisations across the borough, it will feature a range of up and coming young artists such as Donaeo, Bashy and Wretch 32.

Kamilah McCalman, Youth Development Officer at One Housing Group, who is organising the initiative, said: "Through the work we do with young people, we see first hand the damaging and potentially fatal effects that gun and knife crime is having on them. We have to change young people's attitudes in order to combat this problem."

"The One Mic, One Life concert and forum aim to engage with young people by tapping into their network and interests. By bringing them together through their common love of dance, music and comedy, we can start breaking down the rivalry between groups and help them to realise the negative effects of this kind of behaviour."

Cllr James King, Executive Member for Community Safety at Camden Council, said:  
“This concert is a fun way of bringing young people from across Camden together to build trust and reduce the risk of tension and crime.”

“By showing young people the negative effects of gun and knife crime, we can help deter them from getting involved and projects such as these can begin to break down the barriers which lead to gang rivalry. Well done to One Housing Group and Castlehaven Youth Project for their hard work and commitment.”

Following the concert, One Housing Group, in partnership with Castlehaven Youth Project, will be setting up a youth forum, with representatives from each of Camden’s youth clubs. The forum will meet monthly to discuss and develop strategies to tackle the issue of knife and gun crime. It aims to help young people who have been stereotyped by their peers by empowering them to find their own solutions to these issues and deterring them from this kind of negative behaviour.

## **Ends**

**For further information please contact Fiona Crook at One Housing Group on telephone: 020 7428 4107 or email: [fcrook@onehousinggroup.co.uk](mailto:fcrook@onehousinggroup.co.uk)**

## **Notes to Editors**

The One Mic, One Life project is funded by Community Action, One Housing Group's charity.

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.

Visit [www.onehousinggroup.co.uk](http://www.onehousinggroup.co.uk) for further information.