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Silva Social Enterprise and North Wessex Training form a new partnership

Silva Horizons, part of the social enterprise arm of Selwood Housing, has entered into a new partnership with local training provider North Wessex Training. The organisations will be working together on an innovative scheme designed to help local unemployed people improve their skills to help them find work and set up their own businesses.

North Wessex Training recently won the contract to deliver the Government's new Work Programme as a sub-contractor in Devizes, Chippenham, Swindon, Salisbury and Trowbridge. Under this contract they work with the long term unemployed to help get them into lasting employment.

Silva Horizons offers work experience placements and work shadowing opportunities for people who are engaged on the Work Programme with North Wessex Training, particularly those who are also Selwood tenants. It also offers apprenticeships and work placements outside of the Work Programme.

Barry Hughes, chief executive of Selwood Housing, said: "Entering into this partnership with North Wessex Training is part of Selwood Housing's larger commitment to social enterprise and I am excited about the possibilities it will create for local people. We have a track record in using placements to help people find employment, like the Future Jobs Fund and we are working to create more opportunities with placements, training and apprenticeships with our suppliers."

Mary Cripps-Warwick, Managing Director for North Wessex Training, said: "North Wessex Training and Selwood Housing have worked together successfully over the last few years, helping a number of each other's clients gain the skills and qualifications they needed to progress their careers and improve their lives. The recent acquisition of North Wessex Training by Campbell Page UK and the transformation of the company into a not for profit organisation makes the formation of a partnership between North Wessex Training and Silva Social Enterprise, part of Selwood Housing, a logical next step in our relationship."

The partnership has already seen its first client start working in Selwood Housing's customer services department on a long term placement.

Visit www.silvahorizons.co.uk to keep an eye out for any opportunities.



Caption: *Mary Cripps-Warwick, managing director of North Wessex Training (kneeling down centre) joins Selwood Housing to celebrate their partnership.*

Shown left to right are: James Fortune, who originally joined Selwood Housing through the Future jobs Fund placement scheme, Ria Bristow Head of HR & Development, Mary Cripps-Warwick, Managing Director of North Wessex Training (kneeling), Barry Hughes, chief executive of Selwood Housing and Patrick Clarke, commercial director of Selwood Housing (kneeling).

ENDS

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Note to Editors

Selwood Housing is social enterprise housing provider that works to improve homes and communities.

We have over 5,500 homes for affordable rent in Wiltshire and Somerset and employ 150 staff from our office in Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

In our last Audit Commission inspection we were rated as good with promising prospects.

Silva Social Enterprises is the name of Selwood Housing's social enterprise arm. It was set up in 2010 to provide opportunities for tenants and other members of the community to strengthen communities, empower local people and build enterprises. For more information about Silva and its activities please see www.silvasocialenterprises.co.uk.

North Wessex Training is Wiltshire's leading provider of training courses designed to get people working. It provides a range of courses and employment opportunities to help people in all situations, and at all stages in their careers, to build a rewarding future. The company was recently acquired by Campbell Page, one of Australia's largest not-for-profit welfare-to-work providers. For more information please see www.northwessextraining.co.uk.

The Work Programme is the latest big milestone in the delivery of the Government's radical welfare reforms. It is the biggest single payment by results employment programme ever introduced and replaces much of the existing back to work support on offer with a programme that is built around the needs of individual jobseekers. [Source DWP]. Under the new programme providers are free to innovate and design support based on the needs of jobseekers and local labour markets. The Government's priority is to get people into employment that lasts.