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■ IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Making Christmas more cracking with SHP's Cracker Smile

Last week Sutton Housing Partnership, six primary schools and local Councillors joined forces to support 121 residents in need over the festive period through SHP's Christmas Cracker Smile Community Campaign.

In its second year, the campaign is aimed at reducing loneliness and involving the community by SHP staff nominating residents to receive a gift of appreciation for those that are struggling either through poor health, loneliness or have just had a difficult year.

Councillors Ruth Dombey, Jean Crossby and Marlene Heron, supported the event held at Sutton United Football Ground, with children from Hackbridge Primary School, Abbey Primary School, Cheam Park Farm Primary Academy, St Dunstan's, Cheam, C of E Primary, Green Wrythe Primary School and Westbourne Primary School donating and handing out presents to residents who had been chosen to receive a gift.

Alongside this event and over the next few days SHP will be delivering hampers, containing essential food items to 35 elderly residents living in sheltered housing accommodation, who will be without family or friends this Christmas time.

Dawn Eustace, Head of Neighbourhoods (Sheltered, Sustainment and Income) at SHP, said:

"At SHP we're committed to reducing loneliness and social isolation, working with Sutton Council, local schools and organisations. Christmas can be a difficult time, but our campaigns demonstrate how we can work together to support those less fortunate and need a helping hand, also reminding children of the merits of volunteering to help and give to people lonely or going through tough times."

-Ends-

Notes for Editors

- For more information please contact Philippa Somerset on 020 8915 2364 or email philippa.somerset@suttonhousingpartnership.org.uk

- SHP is celebrating 10 years as an ALMO (Arms Length Management Organisation) and award winning housing provider. SHP delivers housing services on behalf of the London Borough of Sutton, managing nearly 8,000 tenanted and

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leasehold homes in Sutton providing a wide range of housing and management services for residents. This includes day to day repairs, major works projects, cleaning and grounds maintenance, management of sheltered housing and supporting community development.

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