

MEDIA RELEASE



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New homes in Lewisham, launch career of local man

An apprentice has kick started his career with contractors building new homes on behalf of Lewisham Homes and Lewisham Council.

Imre, 22, who is now a full time employee of Bonds Builders, is an inspiring example of what an apprentice can achieve through enthusiasm, determination and hard work.

Imre explains how he got his apprenticeship:

'I came to this building site and asked for a job. I live in the block of flats that overlooks the site. I thought 'I can't lose anything by asking' and luckily the Site Manager did give me an opportunity.

'I've gained a Level 2 qualification in plumbing and every day I'm still learning something new. If you don't learn, you can't really get far in life. I'm now a full time Labourer.'

Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor for Lewisham, congratulated Imre this week:

'I'm passionate about apprenticeships having been a mechanical engineer apprentice at the start of my working life. Apprenticeships give people the opportunity to learn, gain experience and identify what area they want to specialise in.

'I'm really proud that our 'New Homes, Better Places' programme with Lewisham Homes is giving local people like Imre the chance to develop their careers.'

Located on a former garage site, the building development at Wood Vale, Forest Hill, will provide 17 new homes ready for people to move into this Summer.

Ainsley Forbes, Lewisham Homes Board Chair added:

'I'm impressed that Imre and Bonds Builders took a chance on each other. Just look at what Imre's achieved!

Employing local people is something Lewisham Homes will continue to encourage our contractors to do as we start building around 300 more new homes this year.'

Lewisham Homes and their contractors have recruited nearly 100 local people as apprentices since 2007. This includes recruits employed by suppliers, such as QHS, the housing provider's gas contractors.

For more information about employment and training opportunities available through the 'New Homes, Better Places' programme visit www.lewishamhomes.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

Lewisham Homes manages 18,000 council homes in Lewisham, operates its own repairs and maintenance company and employs more than 500 staff. It is undertaking a major investment programme to improve homes and local communities as well as building 500 new homes, and creating new homes from disused spaces.