



# Press Release

**13 September 2017**

**PR 6510**

**For Immediate Release**

## **Ipswich House opens**

Dame Caroline Spelman MP has opened a new fully supported short-term housing facility in Chelmsley Wood.

The purpose-built 21-unit, Ipswich House, is being managed by Solihull Community Housing (SCH) with around the clock support provided to residents by staff from Fry Accord. It has been funded by Solihull Council with help from the Homes and Communities Agency.

Ipswich House has been developed to help local people who find themselves made homeless at short notice, due to reasons such as relationship breakdowns and private tenancies expiring.

Fiona Hughes, Chief Executive of SCH, said: "We are delighted that Dame Caroline Spelman was able to open Ipswich House. This is an important new facility that will provide a safe and secure home for people who would otherwise face the possibility of sleeping rough.

"Ipswich House has wonderful facilities and with the support of Fry Accord staff it offers residents the best possible opportunity to take their lives forward in a positive direction."

The project received funding from the Homes and Communities Agency under the 'Homelessness Change' programme which seeks to offer improved temporary accommodation for homeless people.

Ipswich House supports Solihull Council's Homelessness Strategy by offering local homeless people an eight-week placement with ongoing support towards settled accommodation.

Councillor Alison Rolf, Solihull Council's Cabinet Member for Environment & Housing, said: "We are thrilled that Ipswich House is now open and providing support for local people. Being homeless can be a very difficult time for people, so we hope that providing them with a place to stay while they find more permanent accommodation will make a huge difference to their lives."

There are also computer facilities at Ipswich House where Fry Accord staff can assist residents with CVs and job applications along with helping with any Universal Credit applications.

## Notes to Editor

Photo caption: Dame Caroline Spelman MP cuts the ribbon to officially declare Ipswich House open, accompanied by Solihull Community Housing Board vice chair, Patricia Smith (left) and SCH Chief Executive, Fiona Hughes.

For further information please contact:

Laura Baker,

Tel: 0121 704 6164

Email: [laurabaker@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:laurabaker@solihull.gov.uk)

Web: [www.solihull.gov.uk](http://www.solihull.gov.uk)