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Making a difference at Colleagues' Joint Conference

COLLEAGUES attended Cosmopolitan Housing Group's first colleagues' conference where an ambitious social agenda for the new Group was explored following a recent £1.3 billion merger.

Four hundred and forty colleagues attended the first joint conference at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton, where colleagues from across Merseyside and Cheshire explored the Group's vision to raise the aspirations of residents and ultimately to improve their lives.

At the conference, former 5,000m World record holder David Moorcroft OBE presented awards for teams from across the Group who took part in a three month long Stay Active Challenge. Also motivational speaker Paul McGee had colleagues in stitches with advice and tips to make improvements in their professional and personal lives.

Colleagues were also given a flavour of the different organisations within the Group from Andy Williams, Managing Director of Chester & District Housing Trust, Alec Gaston, Managing Director of Cosmopolitan Housing Association,

Sam McMillan, Managing Director of Cosmopolitan Student Homes and Dave Griffiths, Development Director for Cosmopolitan Housing Group, who highlighted a range of cutting-edge developments the Group has in the pipeline.

Cosmopolitan Housing Group Chief Executive John Denny also developed his vision for the group, emphasising the successful skill exchange programme to Uganda, which has had a positive effect on thousands of Ugandan children, apprentices and colleagues. Denny also explained his vision for providing a bursary from the Group for children from the Group's communities to study at sixth form at Eton, which will be one of only 26 places at Eton's sixth form.

Speaking at the conference, Cosmopolitan Housing Group Chief Executive John Denny, said:

“Nothing should be beyond the grasp of anyone in our communities. Why shouldn't genuinely bright kids from our communities have a place at Eton? Housing is not just about building homes, it's about making a difference. No matter how bad the welfare reforms are we are going to respond to them. Our vision involves everyone and dictates the depth, breadth and height of our aspiration. We are going to change and improve peoples' lives.”

Chair of the Cosmopolitan Housing Group Board Bill Snell added:

“Welcome to the bigger, better, stronger, smarter Cosmopolitan Housing Group. To get here today has been an incredible journey over the last 12 months. Today is a cause for real celebration. We don't come together out of weakness. We come together as two very well run organisations which have combined together. We want to see you grow and become a team of excellence. We have realistic goals and will deliver them – let the journey begin.”