

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Eden Housing Association supports Care and Awareness Month**

Eden Housing Association staff and residents of their supported housing schemes joined a range of agencies to mark Care and Support Awareness (CASA) month in July.

Eden Housing Association (EHA) provides a Supported Housing service to 350 people across Eden, so to raise awareness of this important work, they organised several events to mark CASA month and raised funds to hold more activities later in the year:

The Crescent in Penrith held a strawberry tea and displayed paintings, needlework and home made cards all done by tenants of the Crescent. One prospective tenant who had called in to look around remarked "how much talent we had under the one roof".

Sim Court on the Pategill estate in Penrith is already at the hub of the area, with numerous events open to the community. For CASA, the tenants and residents organised a Summer Fair which was also a showcase celebration of resident talent including photography by Tom Broad and Nancy Forsyth and craft items worked by many of the tenants.

Showing support for all the housing schemes, Councillor Mrs Joan Raine from Eden District Council was a special guest at Sim Court and after a short speech, she was presented with a basket of fruit by young Ollie Reed.

The final event was held at Mill Gardens in Kirkby Stephen. The open day featured a BBQ and street entertainers and saw lots of tenants and residents taking part in the day's activities.

Val Martin, Supported Housing Manager at EHA said "Eden Housing Association is proud of its support services and it is wonderful to be given the opportunity to promote what we do. Every £1 spent on Supporting People services saves £2.12 on other public services - the main objective of these events is to shine a light on the difference we are making to people's lives. Funding and policy changes ahead will impact on how we sustain, deliver and develop our service and we face some of our most challenging times for many years, but we aim to keep the people in need of our service at the heart of any decision making for the future."

Derek Long, National Housing Federation Head of North added "In the current financial climate, it is vitally important that commissioners, MPs, stakeholders and Councillors are fully aware of the contribution that the housing sector is making in supporting and improving the lives of so many individuals in communities throughout the region."

The National Housing Federation CASA campaign is aimed at raising awareness of the 12,000 crucial services running throughout the North that help nearly 166,000 of the most vulnerable people enjoy independent and fulfilled lives.

Anyone interested in finding out more about future events should contact Jessica Worlock on 01768 861400 or visit [www.edenha.org.uk](http://www.edenha.org.uk)

Picture: Cllr Joan Raine with Ollie Reed.



## Notes for Editors

- Eden Housing Association is an established Registered Social Landlord providing over 1600 homes for affordable rental in the Cumbria districts of Eden, rural Carlisle and Allerdale. We provide a range of accommodation and services to meet the needs of young single persons, couples, families, older persons and the homeless, including specialist provision with support. Visit our website at [www.edenha.org.uk](http://www.edenha.org.uk)
- CASA month is being organised by a broad mix of supported housing and floating support services providers, with coordination and other assistance from the National Housing Federation. It is aimed at being a representative and inclusive sector-wide initiative.
- The National Housing Federation represents 1,200 independent, not-for-profit housing associations in England and is the voice of affordable housing. Together, our members provide over two million affordable homes and community services for around five million people. For further information see [www.housing.org.uk](http://www.housing.org.uk)
- iN business for neighbourhoods is a long-term project launched by the National Housing Federation and its members as a major initiative to raise the profile of, and promote, the neighbourhood work of housing associations. For further information see [www.iNbiz.org](http://www.iNbiz.org)