

NEWS RELEASE



Westcountry Housing and Sovereign Housing Group
working in partnership

21st May 2010

South West Homes hands over the keys on the 1,000th home

The region's HomeBuy Agent 'South West Homes' is celebrating with its latest happy customer, after helping its 1,000th buyer get onto the property ladder with a Government scheme which dramatically cuts the up-front cost of home purchase.

Andrew Kirkham, and Debbie Mitchell, (pictured with Debbie's daughter, Beth 14 and son, Scott 12) were the 1,000th couple to receive the keys to their brand new home. Andrew said "I have two children and without the HomeBuy scheme, buying a house big enough for us all would have been impossible."

"The scheme billed as 'HomeBuy Direct' is targeted at buyers struggling to buy a place of their own by letting them move in for just 70 per cent of the purchase price. The other 30 per cent is accounted for by a loan jointly funded by the developer and the Government's Homes and Communities Agency."

Andrew and Debbie were delighted with their new home, Debbie said, "This scheme is ideal for couples in our situation who want to own a home together."

"Owing to our previous situations, neither of us had a large deposit and using 'HomeBuy' allowed us to buy a property big enough to accommodate both sets of children."

This latest milestone demonstrates the scheme's popularity and South West Homes commitment to encourage more buyers to use it to own their first home.

"Owning your own home is something many people aspire to – but it is difficult for some to finance that first step," said HomeBuy Manager, Graham Phillips.

Page 1 of 2

Media Contact: Vanessa Gray, Group Communications Manager
Telephone 01803 217560 Mobile 07515 197006
Email: vanessa.gray@westwardhousing.org.uk



Real help now



*"Your home
should be
somewhere
you want to
be"*

Graham continued, "This scheme is still available, but is limited; we do have a selection of excellent new homes ready and waiting to welcome new owners.

"It is far easier than people think. In many cases, buyers need only find five per cent of the price as a deposit." HomeBuy Direct can significantly reduce the initial cost of house purchase and hugely increases the chances of buying a first property. And the smaller mortgage requires monthly repayments that are far more affordable.

Debbie commented on how easy it was to apply she said "We went along to the open day and filled an application in online, it was very simple and straightforward."

ENDS

Notes to Editor:

South West Homes is a 'not for profit' organisation delivered in partnership between Sovereign Housing Group and Westcountry Housing

We provide the opportunity for people to achieve the dream of buying their home.

We are the first point of contact for anyone who cannot afford to buy a home on the open market and we offer a range of affordable options.

We have been appointed this role by the Homes and Communities Agency, the government body that funds affordable new homes, as one of its 15 Homebuy Agents. South West Homes is the HomeBuy Agent for South West England.

A HomeBuy Agent is a one stop shop, allowing applicants to apply for a whole host of schemes and developments regardless of the supplier, and operate under the 'HomeBuy' brand.

To qualify for HomeBuy applicants should have a household income of under £60,000 and be a first time buyer.



Media Contact:

Vanessa Gray, Group Communications Manager
Telephone 01803 217560 Mobile 07515 197006

