



Media Release

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HOMEBUY SUCCESS FOR DISTRICT

The highly respected Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust has helped eight families buy homes in the district this year thanks to their **Homebuy** initiative. Prospective homeowners are eligible if they are either one of the council's housing tenants or on the waiting list or in Housing Association accommodation.

The funding for **Homebuy** has historically been slotted into even numbers over the whole of the county. However, in recognition of the very distinct affordability problems which exist in the Harrogate district, Harrogate's allocation was increased from five to eight last year.

Councillor Jean Butterfield, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: “There have been many initiatives over the years to help council tenants on to the home ownership ladder. And this is one of a number of partnership projects we are involved with to help people access affordable homes. Schemes like this not only benefit the purchaser, but also release much needed council accommodation for others on the waiting list.

“With funding available this year for only 20 **Homebuy** assisted purchases in North Yorkshire and the East Riding, we are extremely grateful to the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust for their continued support of our housing needs. To-date, they have helped 22 families in our district buy a home.”

ENDS

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Jean Butterfield is available for comment on 01423 770381. Further technical information is available from Mr Les Williamson, Director of Health and Housing on 01423 556846.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Homebuy was set up in 1999 by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust and operates across North Yorkshire. This is a government-backed initiative to help people who cannot afford to buy a home outright. Applicants can buy the home of their choice (old or new) anywhere in England. They pay 75% of the market value and receive a loan for the remaining 25%. There is no on-going monthly charge; the owner just has to repay 25% of the property's value when it is sold.