



MEDIA RELEASE

28th April 2010

Wates creates community crèche

A new crèche facility has finally been completed at the Calthorpe Project after being awarded £50,000 through Wates Giving, a charitable programme run by the Wates family, owners of the Wates Group.

The Calthorpe Project¹ is a purpose-built community centre providing child care, training, a play area for children and community activities for local residents in Kings Cross. The early years drop in facility is one of the project's most popular services, helping parents in the King's Cross area to undertake training with Westminster Kingsway College or return to work by providing vital free childcare through Action for Employment.

An expansion of the crèche was planned for 2008; however problems with funding saw the work stalled until £132,000 could be found to finish the crèche interior but the much needed funding from the Wates Giving programme has seen the works finally completed.

Henry Mountain, an Assistant Surveyor at Wates Living Space, the affordable housing division of the Wates Group took on the project management for the work and through using key members of the supply chain reduced construction costs by more than 60% to see the crèche finally completed.

Louise Gates from the Calthorpe Project said, "The new crèche facilities will double the space we have available for local parents of the under fives, helping them to go out and look for opportunities to learn new skills and find work.

"It has also allowed us to radically improve our community garden, which provides a valuable space for families to meet and play safely together.

¹ The Calthorpe Project has also been supported by the Richard Reeves Foundation and Ringway



“We’ve found that everyone who uses the centre gets something different from it, but whether it’s childcare, the chance to learn about the environment or simply giving people the chance to meet other people within their community, it makes a massive difference to hundreds of lives each year.”

Henry Mountain said: “We are delighted to have been able to help the Calthorpe Project complete this expansion project.

“The crèche will provide an invaluable facility for parents in the area, and we’re thrilled that we could use our team’s expertise and supply chain to help the project continue its valuable work within the community. “

ENDS

Media Enquiries

Please contact Emma Radcliffe on 0844 842 5285 or email

emma.radcliffe@beattiegroupp.com or Victoria Walker on 07876 548 498 or email

Victoria.walker@beattiegroupp.com

Notes to Editors

- Wates is one of the UK’s largest family-owned construction services and development companies. Established in 1897, it remains privately owned by the Wates Family. Wates employs over 2000 people and had a turnover of £945 million in 2009.
- Part of the family owned Wates Group, Wates Living Space is one of the UK’s leading affordable housing contractors, working with RSLs and ALMOs we build or refurbish in the region of 20,000 homes for residents each year through the New Build and decent homes programme.
- Wates Giving is a charitable programme set up by the Wates family owners of the Wates Group to support projects that benefit communities for the long term. All projects are proposed and championed by Wates Group employees. Since Wates Giving was launched in 2008 over £2m has been committed to projects across the UK.
- Wates Living Space was awarded Contractor of the Year at the Housing Excellence Awards and Sustainable Contractor of the Year at the Inside Housing Sustainable Housing Awards. www.wates.co.uk