

**Press Release**  
**September 4<sup>th</sup> 2013**

## **British Gypsum donates materials and training resources to rebuild the lives of veterans**

***British Gypsum has donated materials and training resources to veterans charity, Houses2Homes, to help ex-service personnel and their families rebuild their lives.***

The materials will be used as part of an initiative, developed in partnership with Mansfield District Council, which sees veterans transform derelict properties into homes for ex-service personnel and their families.

The initiative, which is the first of its kind in the UK, will also train serving and ex-service personnel in building and renovation skills such as tiling, plastering and bricklaying. At the end of the project, the workers receive an NVQ Level 2 in Maintenance Operations to equip them with the necessary skills and experience needed to pursue a career in construction.



*Andrew Wilkins, Senior Product Manager at British Gypsum, with Aimi Townsend of Houses2Homes and a lorry delivering supplies*

British Gypsum has played a vital role in training the service men and women, donating time and sharing best practice techniques for installing plaster and plasterboard solutions at East Leake in Leicestershire, one of the four Saint-Gobain Technical Academies. The training covered everything from skim finishing plasterboard and developing basic trowel skills, to practical skills in the construction of drylining to brick and blockwork walls.

Dave Hall, technical academy manager at British Gypsum said: "We jumped at the chance to get involved with such a worthwhile project, and we really appreciate being given the opportunity to help ex-service men and women in such a life changing way. The skills they have learned from this initiative will allow them to forge a fulfilling career after life in the armed forces."

Plaster and drylining materials donated by British Gypsum, including 144 Wallboard Duplex boards, 56 bags of Thistle Multi-Finish and 50 Thistle Plaster Angle Beads, were used to renovate several run down terrace houses on Hillmoor Street in Mansfield, in support of veteran charity Houses2Homes.

The project recently featured on the Channel 5 series, Cowboy Traders, which followed an ex-military family who were targeted by a rogue buy-to-let scheme in the South of England. The programme highlighted the great work being done by charities like Houses2Homes, to help veterans get on the property ladder.

Aimi Townsend, Manager of Houses2Homes, said: "We are so grateful for all of the donations we have received. British Gypsum supplied the majority of the plaster and drylining solutions that we needed to finish the project, and we couldn't have done it without them. To see firsthand the difference this has made to the lives of ex-service personnel is fantastic."

For more information, please visit [www.british-gypsum.com](http://www.british-gypsum.com)

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