



## News Release

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Date:</b>    | Tuesday 24 February 2015   |
| <b>Subject:</b> | Donation from Deposit Protection Service provides lifeline to the homeless in Darlington |

Darlington, Tuesday 24 February 2015 – A £7,500 donation from The Deposit Protection Service (The DPS) is providing invaluable support to those without a home in Darlington, according to local charity The 700 Club.

The DPS – the UK's largest supplier of tenancy deposit protection services – began awarding money to charities across England and Wales in June last year, and the 700 Club was chosen among the first round of recipients.

The 700 Club aims to help homeless people in Darlington achieve independence by providing hostel accommodation, 24/7 emergency accommodation, specialised tenancy support for people with drug and alcohol problems, and "Bridge2Home" - a Bond Guarantee Scheme that helps clients access accommodation in the private rented sector by underwriting the bond.

John Elliston, Chief Executive of The 700 Club, said: "Money from The Deposit Protection Service has provided vital support for our Bridge2Home project and has helped us give homeless people in Darlington the possibility of a home of their own."

"Homelessness in any community is a massive concern. Through Bridge2Home we support hundreds of vulnerable individuals, families and couples every year by helping them access private rented sector housing."

In order to prevent clients being "set up to fail", the scheme had previously been cautious in underwriting the bonds of clients with high needs – such as those with drug and alcohol problems – because of the heightened risk of damage to a landlord's property. The higher risk also meant landlords would be unlikely to accept these vulnerable people as tenants.

However, funding from The DPS has ensured that the Bridge2Home scheme can be extended to more clients by compensating landlords for the greater risks through a higher bond guarantee; up to £400 instead of £150. With this, and by also increasing the number of property visits to high need clients, landlords have a much higher level of protection when housing high need clients, and clients have a home.

The donation has also given the charity the flexibility to locate high need clients away from their usual peer groups and the associated ease of access to drugs and alcohol. This helps maximise the client's chance of maintaining a successful tenancy. It has also been used to temporarily meet shortfalls between rent and housing benefit, which has helping clients secure work and then fund the "top up" themselves.

This document contains privileged and confidential information intended only for the use of the named addressee. Any unauthorised use of the contents of this document is expressly prohibited. If you have received this document in error please notify Computershare Investor Services PLC by telephone (reverse charges) immediately and then shred this document. Thank you for your cooperation.

Computershare Investor Services PLC is registered in England & Wales, Company No. 3498808, Registered Office: The Pavilions, Bridgwater Road, Bristol BS13 8AE. Computershare Investor Services PLC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

NEWS RELEASE

Julian Foster, Managing Director of The Deposit Protection Service, said: "We're delighted to be able to support the work of The 700 Club and people in Darlington who need a helping hand.

"We've been working in the housing sector for seven years, during which we've protected over 1 million deposits, and our Charity Donations Fund is designed to give something back to the communities in which we work."

The DPS decides on new awards from the Fund quarterly, and applications for the next round of donations close on 31 March 2015.

More information can be found at [www.depositprotection.com/charity](http://www.depositprotection.com/charity).

#### **For any media enquiries**

The Deposit Protection Service

**Joe Williams**

**Public Relations Manager**

**+44 (0)870 702 003 x1520**

[joe.williams@computershare.co.uk](mailto:joe.williams@computershare.co.uk)

#### **Notes**

1. For high resolution images of spokespeople, visit <http://cpu.vg/spokespeople>

#### **About The DPS**

The Deposit Protection Service is the custodial tenancy deposit protection scheme accredited by the Government. It is provided free of charge, and funded entirely by the interest earned from deposits held in the scheme. The DPS was approved by the UK government to run an insured TDP scheme in September 2012 in addition to the approval it has already been granted by the UK government in respect of the custodial scheme. The DPS is run by [Computershare Investor Services PLC](http://www.computershareinvestor.com). Online self-service allows landlords to register and make deposit payments, transfers and repayments 24 hours a day. Help and advice is available through a dedicated call centre during office hours. An impartial Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) service, helps to resolve any disputes quickly and without the need for court action. For more information, visit [www.depositprotection.com](http://www.depositprotection.com)

#### **About Computershare Limited (CPU)**

Computershare (ASX: CPU) is a global market leader in transfer agency and share registration, employee equity plans, proxy solicitation and stakeholder communications. We also specialise in corporate trust, mortgage, bankruptcy, class action, utility and tax voucher administration, and a range of other diversified financial and governance services.

Founded in 1978, Computershare is renowned for its expertise in high integrity data management, high volume transaction processing and reconciliations, payments and stakeholder engagement. Many of the world's leading organisations use us to streamline and maximise the value of relationships with their investors, employees, creditors and customers.

Computershare is represented in all major financial markets and has over 15,000 employees worldwide.

For more information, visit [www.computershare.com](http://www.computershare.com)