

15th July 2009

Statement for immediate release

First Wessex prepares for possible Swine Flu cases

Statement from Peter Walters, First Wessex Group Chief Executive:

“With over 850 employees it is crucial that First Wessex is prepared for possible incidences of staff contracting Swine Flu. With that in mind our Senior Management team are currently revising their business contingency plans to include Swine Flue which will be finalised this week. This will allow us to manage absences effectively and make sure that front line service delivery remains unaffected in the event of staff sickness.

“Our Corporate HR and Health & Safety teams have been working closely to advise both our staff and residents on the guidance issued by the government and the NHS. We have issued communications and updates on the pandemic internally via regular newsletters and emails, and guidance is also available on our corporate intranet facility. Our aim is to make information about the virus and its symptoms readily available to all, so we are also including the same information in our resident magazines which will shortly be distributed to all First Wessex properties.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

First Wessex Housing Group manages around 17,000 affordable homes primarily in Hampshire and with some activity in Surrey.

The group comprises Atlantic Housing Limited, First Atlantic Housing, Pavilion Housing Association, Portsmouth Housing Association, Fernhill Care Limited and Wessex Property Limited.

Pavilion Housing Association: the largest provider of housing association homes for rent in the Aldershot, Farnborough, Ash and Farnham areas.

Portsmouth Housing Association: provides homes in Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport and Havant. It also provides a wide range of community regeneration services across South East Hampshire.

Atlantic Housing and First Atlantic Housing: provide a full range of affordable housing including rented, supported, shared ownership and key worker housing. A large support portfolio includes housing for older people, extra-care housing, dementia care housing, housing for people with learning disabilities, people recovering from mental illness and some specialist accommodation. They cover a geographic area spanning Eastleigh, Southampton, Winchester and the New Forest.

Fernhill Care: provides care services for tenants of First Wessex Housing Group and other landlords and for individuals in the community with support needs. It specialises in domiciliary, extra- and dementia care.

Wessex Property Limited: the group's in-house repairs and maintenance organisation.

www.firstwessexhq.co.uk

www.atlantichousing.co.uk

www.pavilionha.co.uk

www.phagroup.org.uk