

**PRESS RELEASE**

26 September 2007

**Open Event: Community initiative unveils Refurbished kitchen**

**Friday 28 September**

**11.30am – 2pm**

**Spring House, 1 Spring Street, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 4PZ**

Spring House, one of Novas' 24 hour accommodation projects for single homeless women in Bristol, will unveil its newly refurbished kitchen at an open event on Friday 28 September 11.30am-2pm.

Wates Living Space and associated sub-contractors kindly donated labour and materials to make this community initiative a success.

You are invited to celebrate with Novas, Wates Living Space (who are also providing the buffet for the event) and other local contractors at the open event at Spring House.

Sarah Minns, Head of Novas' Community Support Services in Bristol, says,

'This refurbished kitchen is a fantastic improvement to Spring House and will give homeless women better chance to develop skills for living independently in the future. We are very grateful to Wates and the team of local contractors who have made this possible.'

**ENDS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITOR**

Novas is at the cutting edge of tackling social disadvantage through creating inclusive employment in social enterprises, providing flexible community based support services to vulnerable people and offering quality art and cultural programmes, which involve the wider community in understanding complex social issues.

Novas was established in 1998 and over the last three years the organisation has transformed itself from predominately a provider of large hostels for homeless people to be at the cutting edge of tackling social disadvantage through social enterprise, innovation and positive impact.

We aim to change lives through arts, enterprise and community support, developing opportunities for individuals and communities through community support, education, training, employment, art, culture and regeneration. We have developed a strong reputation for the delivery of quality community-based services, and for new and innovative approaches together with people who experience inequality, exclusion and discrimination.

We run a cutting edge designer clothes shop; contemporary urban centres offering integrated arts, performance, small business development and community activity; community support services working together with 6,000 people a year with customer input at every level; a translation and interpreting service utilising the skills of over 200 Black and Refugee people, and coffee shops offering fair trade and organic produce.

Our initiatives positively change the lives of people, including those experiencing homelessness, health issues, prejudice and isolation; and they all contribute to bringing communities together. All profits are reinvested back into Novas learning and development programmes for disadvantaged groups, and at least 50% of all jobs created are targeted for these groups.

We develop innovative community empowerment strategies that integrate our services and those that face deep exclusion to be at the centre of our communities, not on the margins. We are currently remodelling many of our large hostels to raise the living standards for people who are homeless, within buildings that will become a part of their local communities through business, market space, cultural quarters, performance spaces, retail and restaurants. These projects will also offer learning, cultural and enterprise space for a wide range of individuals and communities who experience exclusion.

We have many case histories of how disadvantaged people have successfully turned their lives around, and are successfully contributing to their communities. We can also set up media interviews with them.