



News Release

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## **Housing staff go to dizzy heights for charity**

An intrepid team of staff from Manchester scaled new heights when they climbed the UK's three highest mountains in less than 24 hours - raising more than £10,000 for charity.

When eight adventurous volunteers from Procure Plus, a regeneration consortium of social housing providers from across the North West, decided to raise money for charity, leg waxing or fancy dress just weren't challenging enough. Instead they opted to tackle some of Britain's toughest terrain in the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge.

Jackie Roach, operations manager at Procure Plus, said: "We all wanted to do something to raise money for the consortiums' four chosen charities, but instead of going down the usual route of getting legs waxed or wearing wacky outfits, we decided we should take on something a bit more challenging.

"The four charities are all really worthy causes, which mainly rely on donations, so to be able to help them is a fantastic feeling.

"This was the first time most of us had tackled something like this and it proved as tough as we all thought it would, but we all rallied round and supported each other right to the finish."

And the months of training and preparation certainly paid off, as the team reached the summits of Ben Nevis, in Scotland, Scarfell Pike, in England, and Snowden, in Wales, in a combined climb time of just under 13 hours.

Climbing through the night and battling against sleep deprivation, tiredness and altitude, the team travelled more than 450 miles, walked 25 miles and climbed a staggering 10,000 feet during the challenge.

The money raised, including a huge donation from the main sponsor Wolseley UK, was divided between Procure Plus' four chosen charities for the year - Francis House Children's Hospice, in Didsbury, St Ann's Hospice, in Cheadle, Donna's Dream House, in Blackpool, and Hospice at Home based in West Cumbria.

Mike Brogan, chief executive of Procure Plus, said: "Huge congratulations go to the team, who dedicated their time, went out of their comfort zones and pushed their minds and bodies to the limit for four fantastic charities."

Mike added: "At Procure Plus we believe that by bringing social landlords together we can help them deliver better services to their tenants - something that is underlined by the climbers' achievements. By coming together and working as a team they have been able to achieve something remarkable and help make a difference to people's lives."

For more information about Procure Plus visit [www.procure-plus.com](http://www.procure-plus.com)

**Ends**

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**Notes to editor**

**About Procure Plus**

**Procure Plus** is a regeneration consortium of social housing providers that aims to generate efficiencies by leveraging the procurement of construction materials and contractors. The organisation is compliant with Audit Commission requirements and makes it easier to manage HCA funding for schemes, and it has created a web-enabled system that delivers the benefits of consortium purchasing and a check list to ensure rules governing funding schemes are met.

All savings and any surplus made by the consortia is reinvested in to local communities helping to create jobs and improve local facilities and schemes. It is expected that clients of Procure Plus will collectively invest over £1.5 billion in the repair and upkeep of properties between 2006 and 2010/11; it is anticipated that a substantial proportion of this will be channeled through Procure Plus.