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## **GMEC Clean Slate Award 2010**

### **Winner: PARKWAY GREEN HOUSING TRUST**

Parkway Green Housing Trust of Manchester has won the Clean Slate Award in the 2010 GMEC Awards.

Parkway Green, one of Procure Plus's social landlord members, won the award for understanding that businesses, individuals and society are all affected by people who re-offend, and that sustainable employment is a powerful lever for reducing the likelihood of an individual returning to crime.

Nigel Wilson was presented with the award by Barbara Bate of the National Offender Management Service who said: "There is a danger that in these straightened times the needs of those most in need are pushed further down the list of priorities, which is why this award is so important."

Nigel said: "We wanted to develop an innovative scheme and do something different. With the right support the people we're helping can make a fundamental change to their lives. When you look back over the successes of the scheme you realise the number of people who have turned their lives around."

In 2008, Parkway Green took the opportunity of a garden maintenance service review to engage previously marginalised offenders – known as Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs) in a scheme designed to reintegrate them back into the world of work. The result was PG Turnaround, a tenant-endorsed project aimed at making their community safer. Participants undertake a six-month work experience placement, which leads to permanent opportunities with Parkway Green contractors.

The project has been a great success with 100% of participants who reached the end of their placement securing further employment.

The scheme is growing, and one of the participants – Andrew Bacon, shortlisted for the Individual of the Year – has already graduated to a first line managerial role.

Nigel said: "We are delighted to be recognised and to win the award. We all share enormous pride in seeing the Trust recognised for the hard work we are doing at such a prestigious event. Thank you and well done to everyone whose help make PG Turnaround so successful."