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TOMORROW'S PEOPLE MERSEYSIDE TEAM GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

National employment charity Tomorrow's People, which runs programmes helping the long-term unemployed, as well as young people who may never have worked at all, into work, has just received a fantastic boost to its team of supporters in Merseyside.

Ken Pye, Director of Common Purpose and a longstanding supporter of Tomorrow's People, recently agreed to become Merseyside Patron for the charity. His first achievement has been to put together a team of Vice Patrons from the local great and good from a wide range of backgrounds, to help the charity in its work in Liverpool and the surrounding areas. The team comprises Alison Ball of FRC Group; Jim Barclay of Merseytravel; Alan Brown, Governor of HM Prison Liverpool; Mike Hagen, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Merseyside; Neil Hewertson of Groundwork; Anita Marsland of the Knowsley Primary Care Trust; Nicola McCann of Liverpool John Moores University; Paul Oginsky of The Personal Development Point; The Venerable Ricky Panter, Archdeacon of Liverpool; Ken Perry of The Plus Housing Group; Alison Spenceley of PricewaterhouseCoopers; Mike Taylor of Business Liverpool and Debbie Thompson of Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank. Their respective talents and breadth of expertise will be considerable assets for Tomorrow's People.

As part of a 1 day introduction to the charity's work locally, the group visited a presentation ceremony for graduates of an Alt Valley based project for young people called *Working It Out*. *Working It Out* is being run in several locations in England and Scotland and is aimed at the NEET group (young people aged between 16 and 24 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training). It is a 16 week programme for groups of 12 young people at a time, which centres around a community challenge – encouraging leadership, initiative, involvement and ownership, amongst a group normally on the margins of society. The programme in Merseyside has an impressive success rate since its inception – of 52 starters over 4 *WIO* Programmes to date, 15 young people moved into jobs, 6 into destination training outcomes and 42 achieved a qualification while on the Programme – equating to an overall 81% positive outcome rate.

Ken Pye presented the certificates to the graduating members of the Task Force and expressed his delight that his first public task as the Merseyside Patron for Tomorrow's People was to be able to congratulate these young people on their achievement.

Ken Pye said 'The gap between the privileged few and the disadvantaged has been widening significantly over the last decade. Tomorrow's People has already begun, and is determined to continue, to narrow that gap by expanding and extending our programmes and projects and by working in partnership with other agencies and organisations, to make Liverpool, and Merseyside, a world-class region, all of its people'.



In addition to most of Ken Pye's new team, also attending the presentation ceremony at the Walton Clubmoor Community Resource Centre were local MPs Irene Rainey and Rose Bailey; Alex Eslick of Liverpool City Council; Sylvia Luft of the Salvation Army; Janet Mullen of Merseytravel; Dave Roland and Pam Newton (check name) of the NHS Health Trainer Service; Claire Sherman of Connexions; Debbie Dodds of the Young Persons' Advisory Service; Margaret Keogh of Adult Learning Services, Paul Amann of Liverpool JET Service, and Dave Hodgson-a successful graduate of an earlier Working It Out programme.

Paul Amann of Liverpool City Council said "Tomorrow's People has worked in partnership with other agencies to engage with some of the most vilified and excluded young people. They have taken them forward and helped them gain qualifications and skills which will be a firm foundation for them to progress in the future. This is already evidenced with so many of them already moving into employment."

Debbie Scott, Chief Executive of Tomorrow's People, said of the charity's newest Vice Patrons Group: "Tomorrow's People works hard to help as many people as possible into sustainable employment. To do that we need to operate to the highest professional standards and in that regard, we are delighted to welcome Ken and his team. Under his dynamic leadership we are sure the team will help us to achieve great things in Merseyside."

Formed in 1984, Tomorrow's People, which has operation centres across England and in Scotland, engages with the people who are the hardest-to-reach by giving them one-to-one support in the community, helping them find the right job and to keep it long term. On average, 76% of people helped by Tomorrow's People are still in employment 12 months on.

A focus on partnering with employers is a key feature of the work of Tomorrow's People. The charity helps employers to fill their recruitment needs with skilled, job-ready candidates and contributes to the regeneration of the local economy, matching the supply and demand sides of the labour market to improve business productivity and help those who are out of work.

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Notes to Editors:

Tomorrow's People is a national charity that has helped change the lives of over 400,000 people across the UK who had been resigned to long-term unemployment and welfare dependency, since it was established in 1984.

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