



PRESS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE: ISSUED ON BEHALF OF GMB AND AKARI CARE

EMPLOYER AND UNION DELIGHT AT SIGNING A JOINT AGREEMENT

The North East's biggest general trade union has today reacted to the news that negotiations leading to the signing of a national recognition and procedure agreement have been completed.

The GMB Union has been in discussions with Akari Care, which owns 39 Care Homes nationally, to seek recognition for representation and bargaining purposes. On 14th November 2012 an agreement was signed giving recognition to the GMB in Akari Care.

Akari and the GMB have both committed themselves to joint working on a range of issues that cover terms and conditions, training, as well as important matters relating to campaigning and funding within the social care sector.

Speaking after the signing ceremony Billy Coates, Senior Organiser, GMB Northern Region said: "Akari Care have a significant presence in the North East in providing social care to elderly and vulnerable people. It is clear to the GMB, that Akari Care have a strong commitment to high quality care for residents and their families as well as trying to employ excellence in terms and conditions for their workforce.

"We are delighted to be working with Akari Care to help develop matters on a number of fronts. The social care industry is under great pressure from budgetary constraints and a lack of a national consensus as to the way

forward. We want to play our part in helping that process and build that consensus.”

Kevin Groombridge, Managing Director of Health Care Management Solutions, said: "We signed a five-year agreement to manage the Akari Care homes, effective from the 1st October, and we were keen to work closely with the GMB who we recognise as a modern organisation who share our commitment to our employees and residents. We operate excellent care homes that provides high quality and dignified care for residents and also we strive to be a decent employer.”

-ENDS-

CONTACTS

For the GMB, Billy Coates, Senior Organiser, contact details 0191 2333958; Chris Jukes, Senior Organiser, contact details 0191 2333968 or 07870176733.

For Akari Care, Kevin Groombridge, MD, contact details: 01564 820 140

NOTES TO EDITORS

Please see attached photograph of the signing ceremony at the GMB Northern Regional Office, Newcastle, on 14th November 2012. From left to right pictured: Billy Coates GMB; Kevin Groombridge Managing Director Healthcare Management Solutions on behalf of Akari Care.

