



6th March 2019
For Immediate Release

West of Scotland Housing Association gives thousands of books to children

Imagination Library, a book-gifting charity created by Dolly Parton, has supported 2,500 books to be provided to children across Scotland by West of Scotland Housing Association (WSHA). WSHA was the first registered social landlord in Scotland to sign up for the scheme which gives children under the age of 5 years up to 60 free books.

One family to have benefitted from the book-gifting scheme is Michelle Fallon who highlighted: "I signed up my three young children when I first moved into my home four years ago. They all love getting a book personally delivered to them each month and are excited to see what one it will be. There are always really good books and we read them as a family as part of the bedtime routine."

Maisie O'Brien, Community and Support Services Manager at WSHA, added: "On World Book Day 2019, we are delighted to mark a tremendous milestone of providing 2,500 free books to our young tenants. We recognise the importance of supporting children's reading from an early age and we know that this assists them to develop their literacy skills. It is really great to see families, such as Michelle and her children, benefiting from this scheme."

The scheme has been funded since 2015 by WSHA's charitable subsidiary, Willowacre Trust and this is part of a wider Supporting Communities Strategy.

Marion Gillooly, Executive Director, The Dollywood Foundation UK, commented: "Dolly Parton set up her Imagination Library to get books into the hands of children and inspire a lifelong love of reading. We are delighted to join WSHA in celebrating this milestone, which demonstrates their commitment to supporting tenants, helping to develop flourishing communities."

ENDS

Press contact:

Sabrina Allan

Communication & PR Advisor
West of Scotland Housing Association

DD: 0141 550 5630 **T:** 0141 550 5600 **M:** 07703 828 858

E: Sabrina.Allan@westscot.co.uk

Notes to Editor

- WSHA, is one of Scotland's oldest social landlords with over 3,500 homes across the West of Scotland. WSHA strives to be more than just landlord and goes further to improve the lives of tenants by innovatively responding to their needs as their lives change.
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book-gifting charity for young children aged 0-5. She created the charity to ensure access to books, inspire a lifelong love of reading and help children reach their full potential. Registered children get a free book every month in the post until their 5th birthday.
- Picture– Lynne Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer, WSHA with children from Keppoch Nursery.