

# PRESS RELEASE

27th May 2003

## SUCCESS IS A THREE YEAR BAN



Photo available to media

A commitment to improving the lives of Stalybridge residents is at the heart of the first Anti Social Behaviour Order granted by Tameside Magistrates Court upon application by New Charter.

The Court heard that Toni Leanne Hargreaves, 22, of no fixed address had threatened and caused damage to homes and property on the Crowswood Estate, Carrbrook, Stalybridge. Hargreaves caused harassment, alarm and distress to residents in the area, she told one elderly resident “ I’ve never hit an old woman, but I could make an (*expletive*) exception for you”.

Hargreaves was also convicted of possession of offensive weapons – knives – on two occasions. On the first occasion, Police found a knife hidden in her bra and on the

second, when in the area in breach of bail conditions, she was found in possession of the knives.

The case was the first ASBO success for New Charter who owns most of the homes on the estate. Until December 2002, only Local Authorities could apply for ASBO's, although the Government has now widened powers for others to take the lead. New Charter led the case for the banning order, and leaflets detailing the order are to be circulated to all homes on the estate this week. The Order lasts for 3 years and will be in place when Hargreaves is released from her current custodial sentence.

The fact that ASBO's can be obtained against people who are not tenants strengthens the 'toolbox' when dealing with anti-social behaviour.

Speaking after the Order was granted, Steve Hodson of New Charter said "This sends out the clearest message that we, the Police and, most importantly, residents are not prepared to put up with such behaviour. Our communities are entitled to live in their homes in peace, not fear. There are other cases we will bring to the Courts. We hope more residents will be supported in the same way".

**ENDS**

#### **Notes for Editors**

1. The Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) was made at Tameside Magistrates Court on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, District Judge Brigid Knight sitting.

2. Breach of a full ASBO is a criminal offence. Hargreaves can expect a custodial sentence of up to five years if a breach occurs.
3. The Court found that:
  - (i) the defendant had been convicted of a relevant offence and
  - (ii) considers that the offender has acted since the commencement date in an anti-social manner, that is to say, in a manner that caused, or was likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as herself  
and that
  - (iii) an order was necessary to protect persons in England and Wales from further anti-social acts by her
4. The Court ordered that the defendant Toni Leanne Hargreaves be prohibited from:
  - (i) entering the Crowswood Estate, Carrbrook, Stalybridge, this being the area outlined in red on an attached plan
  - (ii) using or engaging in abusive, insulting, offensive, threatening or intimidating language or behaviour in any public place in England & Wales
  - (iii) engaging in, or inciting or encouraging any other person to engage in, any anti-social or criminal behaviour in any public place in England & Wales
  - (iv) associating with Danny Worsley
  - (v) carrying articles in any public place in England & Wales which constitute offensive weapons pursuant to law
5. A leaflet is to be distributed to all residents on the Crowswood estate to advise them of the ASBO and its terms so they can assist in reporting breaches [if any].
6. New Charter formed in 1999. Until September 2000, it was Britain's biggest Large-Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT). With a turnover of £44 million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the twenty largest Registered Social Landlords (RSL's), and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog.

**CONTACTS:**

**Paula Thomas or David Rigby - New Charter Publicity 0161 331 2000**