

PRESS RELEASE

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Appeal Court Backs New Charter

In a landmark judgement, the Appeal Court yesterday backed New Charter Housing Trust, who appealed against a ruling by a County Court judge that the family of a teenage tearaway could stay in their home.

“New Charter has been on the case for over twelve months, attempting to deal with anti-social behaviour teenager, Damon Barnes, of Hus Street, Fairfield Estate, Droylsden” said Ian Munro, Group Chief Executive of New Charter. “Our tenants’ lives were made a nightmare by this individual and his gang”.

Barnes, now 18, was finally sent to prison last year for breach of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order following a catalogue of violence, setting fires, threats, racial abuse and mayhem.

“Possession proceedings had already been started when the Anti-Social Behaviour Order was obtained and breached. As the sanction of the ASBO had not worked, New Charter



had no alternative but to pursue eviction”, said Ian Munro “and it seemed his mother, Ruth Ashcroft, was unable to control his behaviour. To protect our tenants, we asked a County Court judge to help us evict her. We were appalled when the judge told us we had proved our case but he wouldn’t let us evict”.

New Charter and their tenants were so annoyed and frustrated by the judge’s decision that a trip to the Court of Appeal was needed to overturn the judgement. The Law Lords, not noted for disagreeing in cases where a fellow judge has made a discretionary decision, fully supported New Charter’s case and agreed to the Possession Order. They expressed concern in respect of the original ruling.

“This sends out the strongest possible message to those people who cause or allow members of their household to behave in an anti-social manner”, said Ian Munro. “We’ve gone to one of the highest Courts in the land to back our tenants. New Charter will leave no stone unturned in tackling anti-social behaviour”.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage nearly 16,400 properties transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £49million a year and a workforce of almost 800, New Charter is one of the twenty largest Registered Social Landlords (RSL’s), and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog.

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