

PRESS RELEASE

28th January 2005

Sheds heaven

Ashton's gardens are being firmly closed to the public – thanks to a new initiative to deter burglars. New alarms fitted to sheds and outhouses will protect residents' garden tools and furniture.

New Charter's close teamwork with Greater Manchester Police identified the risk of insecure garden stores for some tenants. The Police mapped crime hotspots, and the alarms which are simple to install, are supplied to residents **free** of charge.

“Alarms will give that extra security which is always welcomed during the dark winter months”, said Sergeant Dave Cleminson of Ashton's neighbourhood policing team. “We've already fitted quite a few and residents feel reassured”.

The trembler push button alarms act as a powerful deterrent to would-be burglars. A high pitch tone sounds should anyone try to break and enter. The noise is more than enough to startle the criminal and create an alarm call for the resident and those who live nearby.



Ian Munro, Group Chief Executive of New Charter said, ‘Since 2000, we’ve built strong links with the Police and other agencies to help improve our neighbourhoods. Buying this equipment means we can help reduce crime. This investment will make residents feel safer at home and that is important. We’ll continue to work with others to combat crime in our communities and make our neighbourhoods better places to live’.

Sergeant Cleminson continued, “This is an excellent example of effective partnership working. The alarms will help reduce crime in problem areas. We are delighted with the support from New Charter, and expect to continue our partnership for the benefit of Tameside residents”.

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 almost £60million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the country’s largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog.
2. New Charter bought 500 alarms.
3. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a major new campaign, through which housing associations and companies across England are demonstrating the positive difference they make to people's homes, communities and quality of life. New Charter is one of over 400 housing companies and associations supporting the initiative. We’ve made a commitment to neighbourhoods, customers and excellence. Our commitment to customers is to do everything we can to prevent neighbourhood problems, and to deal firmly with people who are bad neighbours.

CONTACTS:

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

ENDS