

PRESS RELEASE

19th October 2006

Six months for New Charter tenant who saw red

A tenant was caught literally red-handed before he was sentenced to six months in prison for anti-social behaviour.

Joel Mansley of Atlas Street in Ashton-under-Lyne was already subject to an Injunction Order with a four-month suspended sentence hanging over him. He had earlier claimed he had been doused with red paint from head to toe while asleep in his flat. He was then witnessed fighting with a 14 year old girl in Atlas Street.

But Mansley was again witnessed by New Charter's Tenancy Enforcement Team breaching the injunction last month with a disturbance outside his home.

A further breach of the Injunction Order occurred last Thursday and Mansley was arrested by the Police before the hearing on Friday 13th October.

New Charter applied to Tameside County Court on Friday afternoon for Mansley's committal to prison following the breaches of the Injunction Order.

Mansley admitted causing a disturbance at his home last month, but claimed the incident only occurred because his daughter had moved in with him temporarily after falling out with her mother.

New Charter argued that Mansley's home attracted many visitors daily. He had tried to get round the Order by speaking with them through an open window while they remained outside. Several disturbances had taken place at his home since the hearing in early September, including one where Mansley was arrested and charged with the assault of his own daughter.

District Judge Osborne heard both sessions. He said it was clear the defendant had breached the terms of the Orders, and that he had never complied with the terms since. He



was impressed by the professional evidence presented by New Charter, and concluded there was no realistic prospect of reform. He told Mansley: “When I said to you last time it was your last chance, I meant it.”

Mansley was given six months in prison, two for recent breaches and four months activation of the suspended sentence.

Martin Frost, New Charter’s Deputy Chief Executive said: “I’m pleased to get the support of the Court. But I’m also pleased for the residents of this neighbourhood that Mansley is off the scene. He has shown no respect whatsoever for them. We will now be taking action to end his tenancy and rid the neighbourhood of his behaviour for good. It’s another success for our in-house tenancy enforcement and legal team”

Mansley’s disregard for his neighbours was matched by his attitude to his home. New Charter estimates it will cost £3000 to repair damage at his flat, and over £1000 to remove red paint and other damage to the communal entrance.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £48million 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. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association recently, the Group owns over 15,000 homes.
2. Joel Mansley (dob 11.02.72) of 21 Atlas Street, Ashton-under-Lyne was subject to an Injunction Order. He was last before the Court on 8th September 2006 where it was ordered that he be committed for contempt of Court to prison for 4 months. The Order was suspended until 8th September 2007 provided he complied with the terms of the Injunction Order.

The terms of the Injunction Order prohibited Mansley from:

1. Engaging or threatening to engage in conduct causing or likely to cause a nuisance, annoyance or disturbance to any person residing in, visiting or otherwise engaging in a lawful activity in the locality of Atlas Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.
2. Using abusive, insulting or threatening language or behaviour towards any such person within the locality of Atlas Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.
3. Engaging in conduct which consists of or includes the use or threatened use of violence.
4. Engaging in conduct which places any person with a right to reside, occupy or any other person with a legal right to be in the locality of Atlas Street, Ashton-under-Lyne in significant risk of harm.

5. Permitting more than 3 people at any one time (including himself) to come within 21 Atlas Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

3. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for Neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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