

PRESS STATEMENT

For immediate release

5th December 2006

Incident at Elizabeth Avenue Stalybridge, 4th December 2006

New Charter confirms that an incident occurred yesterday (Monday) in which a Police Community Support Officer was stabbed.

Tameside County Court issued a warrant to evict the tenant of 6 Elizabeth Avenue, Stalybridge on 13th November 2006. The tenant had failed to pay rent for the home and had run up arrears of over £2,300 by date of eviction.

Court officers with representatives of New Charter and the Police Community Support Officer arrived outside the home just before the time of the court notice of 11am.

After 11am, a bailiff appointed by the court executed the warrant, accompanied by an employee of New Charter (a joiner) and the Police Community Support Officer.

A few moments later, the man came out of the house and attacked those present. He lunged with a knife and cut the Police Community Support Officer on the neck. Two New Charter staff gave first aid to him, during which time the man returned to throw two pans of hot water over them.

A 63 year old man was arrested and remains in police custody.

The tenant at 6 Elizabeth Avenue had no previous history of violence with New Charter. However, he previously visited several locations including Tameside Housing Options Centre, and Stalybridge Police Station, where he indicated his defiance and said he would not leave quietly. This information was shared in advance among the three parties present at the eviction.

New Charter has advised the Health and Safety Executive of the incident as it affected our employees, and is cooperating fully with the police investigation.



Our thoughts are with the Police Community Support Officer and his family. Our staff have been supported and offered counselling.

No further statement or access for interviews will be given.

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