

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

13th December 2007

Rising from the rubble



Picture opportunities with the family and interviews available at 10.30am on Monday 17th December 2007.

A young family whose Ashton home collapsed are looking forward to Christmas thanks to a quick 1-2 by New Charter.

Tracey Davies, her partner Daniel Temple and their 9-month old son Jake found themselves literally without a home when the gable wall of their terraced home collapsed last Friday morning. They were carried to safety from the wreck by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue.

The devastation was compounded when the family discovered the builder they employed was not insured and their misery completed by looting of their possessions.

Although the family's initial reaction was to try and stay with relatives, they needed a better option with Christmas looming. Their emergency status was quickly recognised by New Charter's Housing Options service at Old Street in Ashton-under-Lyne.

And with a home coming available the same afternoon, the Lettings team were equally fast to show the family round and offer a licence to occupy.

New Charter's Director of Tenancy Services Tony Powell said: "It's impossible not to feel sorry when you hear of the disaster. I'm pleased New Charter has been able to step in so quickly to help. Let's hope that baby Jake's first Christmas will be one that Tracey and Daniel can look back on with fond memories. The story doesn't yet have a happy ending, but the circumstances certainly look better than a week ago."



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 £53million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the region's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association, the Group owns 15,000 homes.
2. New Charter provides homelessness and housing aid services at Tameside Housing Options Centre on behalf of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council.
3. Daniel and Tracey's home which collapsed is on John Street West in Ashton-under-Lyne OL7 0NY.
4. **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.

CONTACTS:

David Rigby or Paula Thomas - New Charter 0161 331 2000

ENDS