



PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

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Nuisance family told to move

Picture available

For the first time in Tameside, police have used their powers to close a family's home in response to persistent anti-social behaviour.

Using the powers and procedures provided by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, the police can, working in consultation with the local authority, apply to close dwellings where severe nuisance and anti-social behaviour occur in residential areas. The power is only used as a last resort where previous interventions and enforcement activity have failed to stop the anti-social behaviour.

The Premises Closure Order was made after complaints to the police, Tameside council and New Charter about serious persistent nuisance and disorder at a home in Cumberland Grove, Ashton-under-Lyne. Police applied to Tameside Magistrates Court for the Order following information provided by residents and with the agreement of the local authority and New Charter.

Inspector Tony Alogba said: "Everyone has the right to feel safe and secure in their own home and this family's severe anti-social behaviour made the lives of those living around them a misery. We are committed to dealing with the issues that matter most to local people. Anti-social behaviour is a blight on local communities and we will continue to target those that show no regard for others."

The Closure Order is effective for up to three months and anyone who enters the semi-detached house commits an offence and can be arrested.

Chairman of the bench, Trevor Hulmes said: "We were satisfied all statutory requirements had been met."

Managing Director of New Charter Homes, Tony Powell said: "Last month we obtained an Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction with power of arrest attached. The tenant breached this and was arrested by police. She was remanded in custody for a week before



appearing in front of a District Judge. She was warned any further breaches would be dealt with severely. But further nuisance followed.

“So far, we have taken all the action open to us. Because the tenant has not responded, the police applied for the most effective route to restoring peace and quiet in the neighbourhood. Faced with lack of cooperation from the tenant, we were seeking possession of the home.”

After magistrates granted the Closure Order, the tenant consulted her legal representative and voluntarily terminated her tenancy.

Tameside council’s Head of Community Safety Councillor John Taylor said: “This is an example of how effective the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is on behalf of the community. We shared our expertise and powers to find the solution to this anti-social behaviour.”

Inspector Alogba recognised the support from the neighbourhood. He said: “This closure would not have been possible without the support of the local community and I would like to thank everyone who has provided information to enable us to close this residence.”

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £70million a year and a workforce of 880, New Charter is one of the region’s largest registered providers of social housing, and is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Gedling Homes, the Group owns 18,600 homes. It was named in The Sunday Times best 100 companies to work for in 2009.
2. The Premises Closure Order uses powers and procedures provided by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 as amended by s.118 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.
3. People can help police by providing information on crime and criminal activity either by calling them directly on 0161 872 5050 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is an independent charity that will not want your name, just your information. Your call will not be traced or recorded and you do not have to go to court or give a statement.
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.

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