



**Nottingham  
City Homes**

# Press Release

## Evictions make city neighbourhoods safer!

Nine tenants have been evicted from their city council properties, and a further 25 are being investigated, after an operation that saw the city's main partners pull together to fight crime and anti-social behaviour on our streets.

Operation Mojave was a week-long campaign, which ran in March this year. The operation focussed on more than 60 addresses across Nottingham, some of which were managed by Nottingham City Homes.

Our dedicated team worked with the City Council's Community Protection directorate and the police during this operation. In one case we were able to gather evidence of cannabis growing and serve an eviction notice within three hours of the police raiding the address.

As a result of the operation we've already completed four outright possession orders and a further four tenants who were faced with enforcement action have voluntarily quit their tenancy. All eight individuals have been suspended from the Housing Register for three years. The operation has enabled us to begin eviction proceedings against 25 other tenants.

While taking part in Operation Mojave, we also identified 14 other tenancy breaches including untidy gardens and keeping dogs without permission.

The most recent successful eviction came earlier this month as a tenant, Kathleen Burrell, was evicted from her St Ann's home following a successful police operation to rid the area of drug dealing.

Mrs Burrell's son, who lived with her on Kingsthorpe Close in St Ann's, was arrested after selling controlled substances to an undercover police officer. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment.

The property they were living in was raided under operation Mojave in February 2008, following which our Housing Patch Managers carried out a property inspection and found examples of damage to the property. This evidence was collected and later used to help us evict the tenant.

We have now been granted possession of the property and will also be asking our allocations team to suspend the tenant from our waiting list for three years.

Chief Executive of Nottingham City Homes, Chris Langstaff, said: "We take an uncompromising stance to all aspects of drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. We will seek to evict anyone found with drugs in their property.

"We have worked closely with the police, Nottingham City Council and other agencies to ensure the success of this operation.

"Our tenants have made it very clear they want us to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and cases like this show we are working hard to that end. We are sending a clear message to the small number of individuals who are involved with drugs, that it will not be tolerated."

Nottingham City Council Leader Jon Collins said: "We will do everything we can to ensure that we make life as difficult as possible for the people who

want to engage in drug dealing or drug misuse. That means using all the Council's powers such as inspections, ASBOs and, through Nottingham City Homes, eviction for anyone where clear evidence shows that they are involved in, or those who accommodate people involved in, drug misuse and drug dealing. Residents in our communities have a right to enjoy a peaceful life – and the antics of this objectionable minority often prevents that.”

**Ends**

**Notes to editors:**

Nottingham City Homes was created on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 as an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) to manage Nottingham City Council's rented and leasehold homes. We are now working hard towards bringing Nottingham's council houses up to the Government's Decent Homes standard by 2013.

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