

# Press Release



## Fighting the silent killer this winter

As we head into the cold winter months we all turn up our heating and think about cosying up in front of the fire. There are many news stories about the amount of people who die during the winter months due to the cold, but what about the silent killer..carbon monoxide?

As part of Carbon Monoxide awareness week, which is taking place across the country from Monday 17 November to Friday 21 November, Nottingham City Homes wants to raise awareness about the dangers and importance of our 'Stay Serviced, Stay Safe' annual gas and solid fuel safety checks.

Every year people needlessly die or become chronically ill due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Having an annual gas safety check by a CORGI registered installer, can be the difference between life and death for you and your loved ones.

At Nottingham City Homes we service every gas boiler and solid fuel heating system each year to ensure they are operating safely. We send out letters to all tenants annually to arrange appointments for these safety checks and it is important that all tenants give us access to their homes to make sure these are carried out.

Mark Johnson, Director of Property Services at Nottingham City Homes, said: "Most of our tenants let us in to carry out the gas safety check on their appointment and we are grateful to all them for recognising how important this is. However it is still imperative that we get access to every property. Those tenants who don't allow access to complete the gas service are putting themselves, their families and neighbours at risk.

"We make every attempt to gain access to properties to carry out these checks, which includes a process of chasing up through letters and offers of appointments. But sometimes, people just don't want to let us in. This is unacceptable and those who continue to deny us access will face legal action."

To encourage people to let us in to their home first time for their appointment we now offer the chance to win £100 in our quarterly prize draw.

Trish Morley, a tenant from Sneinton has regular gas safety checks and wants to encourage her fellow tenants to follow suit. She said: "I have my safety check done every time I get a letter. It's very important because people have died from carbon monoxide poisoning and you can't see or smell it. I would encourage everybody to keep their appointment, it could save your life."

Those who don't let us in after every effort has been made will face legal action for preventing access. They could also face court costs of up to £1,000.

For further information on gas safety, please see our website [www.nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk) or pick up a 'Stay Serviced. Stay Safe' leaflet in your local housing office. **Ends**

**Notes to editors:**

- Mrs Morley is available for interview on request
- 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.

**For further information please contact:**

**PR & Communications Officer: Clare Pilling**

**Tel: 0115 9157246      Fax: 0115 9157256**

**Email: [clare.pilling@nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk](mailto:clare.pilling@nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk)**