



Press release

Ref: GCH

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First winner announced in GCH home safety campaign prize draw

Mr Watkins of Breinton Way, Longlevens has been presented with a cheque by Gloucester City Homes, as the first ever winner of the prize draw in its Home Safety Campaign.

A winner is to be selected each month from all GCH customers who keep the first appointment made for them to have their annual home safety check. They will receive a cheque for £100.

The campaign highlights the importance of the annual home safety check GCH carries out in the homes it manages, which includes a safety check and servicing of gas appliances along with checks of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Nicki Summerell who is the champion for gas safety at Gloucester City Homes said "I am so pleased for Mr Watkins as the first winner of our campaign. It is so important for all customers to give us access to their property so we can ensure their personal safety and that of their neighbours."

Becky Hayward, GCH Neighbourhood Services Manager emphasised that Home Safety was absolutely the first priority of Gloucester City Homes. She said "Tragically every year people die from carbon monoxide poisoning due to faulty gas appliances. In addition, if not serviced, gas appliances become extremely dangerous not only for the people living in the property but also for surrounding neighbours. I cannot stress enough how important it is for tenants to let our home safety experts, Connaught plc into their homes to do the annual check and guarantee their safety."

Gary Josephs from Connaught added "We are offering the incentive to try to make people aware of how important it is to allow my engineers into their properties to carry out the home safety check at first appointment. This shows how committed we are to safeguarding Gloucester City Homes tenants and their neighbours."

Gloucester City Homes services 4,900 properties each year as part of its tenancy agreement. It is the landlord's responsibility to ensure each property has a valid gas certificate. This year Gloucester City Homes has extended the service to include carbon monoxide testing as well as smoke alarm testing.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Gloucester City Homes is a 2 star Arms Length Management Company, which provides housing management services to 4900 homes in Gloucester on behalf of the City Council. The company is carrying out a £40 million improvement programme to bring customers' homes to the Decent Homes Standard. Since Gloucester City Homes was created in 2005 it has:

- Achieved a 2* rating (Good service) from the Audit Commission in June 2007
- Secured £39.6 million in Decent Homes funding to meet the Government's Decent Homes standard and completed improvements to over 1200 homes in the City.
- Become the first housing provider in the County to achieve a Gold standard for its supporting people services
- Achieved Investors in People Accreditation for performance management of our staff
- Achieved ISO 9001 for Quality Management systems, re-accredited again in September 2009 following re-inspection
- Achieved "managing for others" status with the Housing Corporation
- Achieved Investment Partner status with the Housing Corporation
- Implemented a programme of training for staff to achieve the Institute of Customer Service Awards
- Achieved the Customer Services Excellence Award in April 2009 and Special Recognition Award in October 2009
- Achieved the Equalities Framework Award April 2009