



Press release

Ref: GCH

Date: 9th December 2008

Don't gamble with your home this Christmas!

Gloucester City Homes is advising customers to budget carefully to ensure they can pay their rent over the Christmas period with the message 'Don't gamble with your home this Christmas!'

GCH is also offering a range of advice to customers about budgeting for Christmas, arrears and benefits advice along with money saving tips on food and fuel bills in their December Tenant Times newsletter and on the GCH website at www.gloscityhomes.co.uk

GCH Income Management Officers will be carrying out evening visits to customers who have arrears in the run up to Christmas, starting this Wednesday.

GCH Chief Executive Ashley Green says:

'We know that Christmas is always an expensive time for families and that this year money is tighter than ever. However, it is vital that customers make sure that they can meet their priority bills such as their rent payments. Putting Christmas expenses before paying the rent will only make matters worse when the bills have to be paid in the New Year. Although we only take legal action to recover arrears if other methods have failed, this year we had to evict 7 customers for rent arrears and a further eviction is scheduled for January. By warning customers and providing advice and support now, we hope that this can be avoided in 2009.'

ENDS

Contact: Jenny Wyatt Head of Marketing and Communications

Tel: 01452 396559

Email: jenny.wyatt@gloscityhomes.co.uk

www.gloscityhomes.co.uk

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.