

News release



Date: 17 September 2009

Kingfisher cracks down on drugs den

Kingfisher HVHS Housing Association has hailed the closure of a town centre property, which was being used for drugs, as a great success following the granting of a closure order on 4 September.

Kingfisher worked closely in conjunction with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police's public protection unit to bring about the closure of the Basingstoke town centre property after a crack house closure order was granted by magistrates under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. The order means that nobody can use the property for a minimum of 3 months, which has resulted in a reduction of incidents of drug taking, dealing and associated anti-social behaviour. It is a criminal offence for anyone to enter the property unless authorised to do so by the police.

Harry McKeown, Kingfisher HVHS's Tenancy Enforcement Officer who has been the driving force behind getting the closure, said, "We have worked jointly with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight's Police to obtain this Closure Order. People do not want to live in areas blighted by drugs and other anti-social behaviour and we have worked very hard with the Police and other agencies in getting this den closed, improving the area for all the residents."

Kingfisher takes incidents of anti-social behaviour, whatever they are, extremely seriously. Kingfisher has a pro-active programme of working with the police and courts to help make our neighbourhoods more enjoyable areas to live.

Kingfisher HVHS, with over 7,000 homes in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire, has a dedicated Tenancy Enforcement Officer, Harry McKeown, as part of its drive on tenancy enforcement. Working in partnership with local Police, PCSOs and Community Wardens, Kingfisher takes allegations of drug dealing very seriously and will respond appropriately

to allegations of drug dealing and other kinds of anti-social behaviour. Kingfisher HVHS's residents are encouraged to report incidents of anti-social behaviour to Harry or their Housing Officer, who can be contacted on freephone number 0800 988 4858 or via the Kingfisher HVHS customer services team on 01256 464114.

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Notes to Editor:

- *The Sovereign Housing Group is made up of five charitable associations: Kingfisher HVHS Housing Association Ltd, Sovereign Housing Association Ltd, Sovereign Housing Group Ltd, The Vale Housing Association Ltd, and Twynham Housing Association Ltd - plus their subsidiaries.*
- *If you would like more information, please contact Debbie Down, Campaigns and Projects Officer for Sovereign, on 01256 302307, or email debbie.down@sovereign.org.uk.*