

Date: 05 July 2010

MP Maria Miller visits Sovereign Kingfisher home to launch carbon monoxide initiative

Sovereign Kingfisher is committed to resident safety and ensuring that its residents live in well maintained high quality homes. An important element of being a responsible social landlord is also highlighting possible hidden dangers in the homes, such as the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

As part of a focus on making homes safer Sovereign Kingfisher is planning to fit CO detectors to all of its gas fuelled homes in the next five years. This will include approximately 5,500 homes in the Hampshire area. As part of this launch local MP Maria Miller visited South Ham residents on Friday 2 July and was given a demonstration of the fitting process by the gas contractor Central Heating Services (CHS) of Farnborough.

The CO detectors will be installed as part of Sovereign Kingfisher's ongoing home health and safety check programme which deals with gas, solid fuel and oil appliance servicing, testing smoke alarms and checking other important areas within the home such as water and asbestos condition reports.

Maria Miller, MP for Basingstoke, said, "The majority of residents are aware of the importance of having smoke alarms fitted in their homes but do not realise that CO is also a potential killer. Every year 15 to 20 people die from CO poisoning and I am pleased to be able to support Sovereign Kingfisher in their campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of CO."

John Dyson, Building Services Manager for Sovereign Kingfisher, noted, "We take the safety of all our residents very seriously. It's really important to make sure that residents have CO detectors in their homes. Sovereign Kingfisher's home health and

safety check programme has also proved to be very successful and makes sure that everything in our homes is working correctly and safely.”

- ENDS -

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 Chris Irons, Public Relations Manager for Sovereign, on 01635 277406 or 07810 506423, or email chris.irons@sovereign.org.uk.*



CHS contractor fits carbon monoxide detector watched by Maria Miller MP (far right) and resident, Mrs Davis