



# The Gateshead Housing Company

## Working with Gateshead Council

6 February 2013

### **New Year action taken on gas danger tenants**

The Gateshead Housing Company has taken action against tenants who refused access to their homes to carry out essential safety checks.

The company, which manages more than 21,000 homes, wants to ensure tenants are aware of the threat of carbon monoxide from faulty gas appliances and heating.

After gaining court access warrants to almost 70 homes to carry out the service last year, the company has taken the hard-hitting approach with 13 tenants since the turn of the year.

Tenants, from Grange Crescent, Meresyde Court, Millford, Hazel Grove and Brandywell in Leam Lane; Penrith Gardens, Whinlaw and Greystoke Gardens in Beacon Lough; Devon Crescent in Birtley; Brisbane Court in Gateshead town centre; Carr Hill Road in Sheriff Hill; and Lanchester Avenue in Springwell had all refused repeated requests and visits to allow the potentially life-saving work to be carried out.

The warrants allowed the company access to carry out the free checks, to not only ensure the safety of the tenants, but also of their families and neighbours.

It is now warning all residents, that apart from potential danger that they and their families face, that further court action or even eviction could happen if they don't allow the company to carry out the free service.

Jon Mallen-Beadle, Managing Director of the housing company, said: "Every year people across the UK die from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas appliances and fires which have not been properly maintained.

"The annual gas servicing of every home is vital for our tenants' safety, and we are fully committed to once again achieving our 100 per cent target of servicing this year.

"As well as being free, the service is a potential life saver. So we are asking tenants to help us and our contractor Mears as much as possible so we can complete this year's safety programme."

Tenants can contact the company's gas servicing team to arrange for the free service by calling 0191 433 5338 or emailing [gasservice@gatesheadhousing.co.uk](mailto:gasservice@gatesheadhousing.co.uk)

The team can also be contacted by text to 0762 480 4167, by Minicom to 0191 433 5349 or by fax to 0191 433 5496.

Information is also available online at [www.gatesheadhousing.co.uk/gassafety](http://www.gatesheadhousing.co.uk/gassafety)

## Notes to Editors

Please call Ian Clarkin on 0191 433 5382, 0782 583 3603 or email [ianclarkin@gatesheadhousing.co.uk](mailto:ianclarkin@gatesheadhousing.co.uk) for more information.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning is thought to kill 50 people in Britain every year and according to CO-Awareness death rates are rising.

Carbon monoxide blocks the body's ability to carry oxygen and poisoning from the gas can happen in minutes or over a period of time depending on the amount of carbon monoxide in the air.

Symptoms include:

- Mild headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Drowsiness
- Eventual coma and death.

Our registered company name is 'The Gateshead Housing Company'. Please use in full on first usage and then 'the housing company' or 'the company' thereafter.

The Gateshead Housing Company manages more than 21,000 homes in the North East of England.

We aim to provide excellent and efficient services working in partnership with residents and the wider local community to create homes and neighbourhoods that meet the aspirations of the people of Gateshead.

In February 2009, the Audit Commission said that the services provided by us are 'excellent' and that we have 'excellent prospects for improvement'.

On a scale from zero to three stars, the Audit Commission inspection team gave us the top 'excellent' three star rating.

This was because we have a strong commitment to customer care, we manage estates well and we are bringing thousands of homes up to and then beyond the Government's Decent Homes standard.

Regularly updated information about The Gateshead Housing Company can be found at [www.gatesheadhousing.co.uk](http://www.gatesheadhousing.co.uk), [www.facebook.com/gatesheadhousingcompany](http://www.facebook.com/gatesheadhousingcompany), and [www.twitter.com/gatesheadhc](http://www.twitter.com/gatesheadhc)