

# Press release



**14 February 2013**

## **Possession of property granted after tenant causes explosion**

East Durham Homes has taken firm action against tenant, Hayley Evans of Dunelm Walk in Peterlee, following a fire and explosion at the property.

The fire took place on 10 February 2012 causing severe damage to the property and the adjoining owner-occupied property, which resulted in both households needing to move out.

Following an inspection and investigation carried out by the fire service, it was found that Ms Evans partner Dean Day had been storing and cultivating cannabis in the master bedroom of the property.

East Durham Homes were granted possession of the property on 17 January 2013, after the county court ruled that this was a serious breach of the tenancy agreement.

Mr Day also faces criminal prosecution and is awaiting a trial date at crown court.

Michael Doyle, East Durham Homes Director of Neighbourhood Services said: "We have a dedicated enforcement team in place at East Durham Homes to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour. Our tenancy agreement makes it clear that we will seek to evict tenants who use the property for supplying illegal substances."

He added: "Eviction is a last resort, but we will not hesitate to take firm action in such circumstances. Our customers rightly expect us to deal firmly with the small minority who abuse their home in this way."

**-ENDS-**

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