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**News Release from**

Stockport Homes

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**Stockport Homes pledges its support for Gas Safety Week 2016**

Stockport Homes has pledged its support for Gas Safety Week (19-25 September 2016) and will be helping to raise awareness of gas safety and urge the public to support the most vulnerable in society, to help keep them safe from dangerous gas appliances.

The sixth annual Gas Safety Week will see organisations from across the UK work together, to encourage all gas consumers to arrange an annual gas safety check. There will be a particular focus on encouraging the public to reach out to their friends and family, be they elderly parents or a disabled neighbour, to ensure they are gas safe. Poorly maintained gas appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. In the last year, at least 55,200 homes in the UK escaped deadly gas incidents such as these, thanks to engineers switching off dangerous appliances<sup>1</sup>.

With 22 deaths and nearly 1,000 gas-related injuries in the last three years<sup>3</sup>, it's vital that people make sure their gas appliances are safety checked every year, by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Anyone working on gas appliances while not being Gas Safe registered is working illegally.

David Wright, Chair of Stockport Homes' Board said: "Stockport Homes takes the safety of its tenants very seriously. Gas Safe registered engineers carry out annual safety checks on all our properties. We urge all customers to provide us with access to their homes, so that we can carry out this important gas safety check."

Jonathan Samuel, Managing Director for Gas Safe Register, said: "It's great to have the support of Stockport Homes this Gas Safety Week. By working together we can reach more people and help to reduce the number of dangerous gas appliances that could be lurking in the homes of the UK's 23 million gas consumers. We know from our own investigations that around one in six gas appliances in the UK are unsafe<sup>4</sup>, meaning far too many people are victims of preventable gas related incidents."

**Reach out to those who need help keeping gas safe at home by following these top tips:**

- Help them to sign up to a free annual gas safety check reminder service at **[www.staygassafe.co.uk](http://www.staygassafe.co.uk)**. You could even sign up on their behalf, so the reminder is sent to you each year
  
- Make them aware of the signs that an unsafe gas appliance may cause:
  - A lazy yellow flame instead of a crisp blue flame; soot or staining on or around the appliance; excess condensation in the room
  - Carbon monoxide (CO) has no smell, taste or colour. The symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness, which can easily be mistaken for something else
  
- Make sure they know to 'Trust the Triangle' by asking to see their engineer's Gas Safe ID card and checking it to make sure the engineer is covered to check or fit the appliance in question.

To find out about dangers in your area visit [www.StayGasSafe.co.uk](http://www.StayGasSafe.co.uk) and to find a Gas Safe registered engineer call 0800 408 5500 or visit [www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk).

**- ENDS -**

**Notes to editors**

<sup>1</sup> Gas Safe Register surveyed 1,199 registered engineers between July 2015 and June 2016. Amongst surveyed gas engineers, 46% per cent said they had switched off a deadly appliance in the last year. There are 120,000 registered engineers, so 46% per cent equates to at least 55,200 homes avoiding a deadly gas incident.

<sup>3</sup> 22 people died from gas related incidents in the UK in the last three years and 949 non-fatalities were reported (Source: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridgas1.xls> statistics 2012-15 (provisional))

### **For more information about Stockport Homes contact**

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For media enquiries relating to Gas Safe Register or Gas Safety Week please contact Gas Safe Register press office on 0207 654 2199 or email [press@gassaferegister.co.uk](mailto:press@gassaferegister.co.uk).

**Gas Safe Register** is the registration body appointed by the Health and Safety Executive to manage the gas safety register in the UK, Isle of Man and Guernsey. It is a legal requirement for anyone carrying out domestic and commercial gas work to be registered, and comply with the Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998. The register of more than 122,000 gas engineers held by Gas Safe Register aims to protect people from unsafe gas work. Gas Safe Register assesses the competence of engineers by inspecting the gas work they have carried out to make sure they are safe to work on gas. Gas Safe Register is focused on gas safety and campaigns to raise awareness of gas safety risks associated with using illegal gas workers.

Gas Safe Register deals with all aspects of the downstream gas industry covered by the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. It covers both piped natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Gas Safe Register replaced the CORGI gas registration scheme in Great Britain and Isle of Man on 1 April 2009. [www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk)

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