

Press release

21 August 2007

Hackney Homes residents take a stand against illegal drugs and anti-social behaviour in their area

Key statements from local residents have helped the Hackney CrackDown Project to shut down a flat on Frampton Park Estate where Class A drugs were being used and sold.

The judge at Thames Magistrates Court this week granted a closure order after reading information about criminal behaviour being carried out by the occupants. Evidence was also collected using new technology which can immediately detect the presence of illegal drugs.

Hackney Homes will now proceed to civil court with a view to obtaining a warrant to evict the occupants.

Wayne Hylton, Hackney Homes Estate Safety Manager said: "We are extremely grateful to our residents for continuing to report suspicious activities to us. We will continue to act on these reports to ensure that our communities are free of anti-social behaviour and our residents feel safe and secure in their homes".

Sergeant Jason Duck of Hackney Borough Police said "Closing down a crack den dramatically improves the quality of life of nearby residents. Crime and anti-social behaviour, which such premises inevitably bring with them fall and residents feel more secure. Drug dealers are getting the message in Hackney – we will find them and we will use the full force of the law to ensure that they cannot continue their illegal activities here in Hackney."

Call Crackdown Project Team in confidence to report a suspected crackhouse on 020 8356 3333, text 07976 911 165 or email crackdown@hackney.gov.uk
Ends

Press queries to:

Olaide Oyekanmi on 0208 356 3522, 0777 2565514 or email Olaide.Oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk

or

Colette Douglass on 020 7275 3249, 07881 460 568 or email colette.douglass@met.police.uk

Notes to Editors

- The Hackney CrackDown Project is significantly reducing the number of crack venues where Class A drugs are being used, and the associated incidents of anti social behaviour and crime in the area.
- In operation for over three years, the project has obtained over 50 Closure Orders at Thames Magistrates Court. It has assisted in the closure and securing of over 300 crackhouses and has helped over 50 people get out of the cycle of drugs and prostitution.
- The Ion Track Itemiser 3 is a desktop drug and explosives trace detection device. It is capable of analysing traces of all commonly known/used illicit drugs present on persons or surfaces and then rapidly identify them i.e. cocaine, heroin, cannabis etc.