

## Press release

12 June 2008

### **Hackney Homes unearths cannabis factory**

A tenant who turned his two bedroom flat into a cannabis factory on the Wrens Park Estate has been rumbled following a joint operation by Hackney Homes, Springfield Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Metropolitan Police and EDF energy.

The raid took place in the early hours of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June and the tenant was discovered in the property along with hundreds of cannabis plants and the paraphernalia to support continuous production of plants in all of the rooms.

The tenant gave up every room in the property to the production of cannabis and had tampered with the electricity supply to the flat to by-pass the main electricity meter. This presented a significant safety risk and could have led to a fire breaking out.

A 52 year old man has been arrested for the cultivation of cannabis. He was taken into custody and the matter has also been referred to Hackney Homes to begin proceedings to repossess the property. He could also face up to 14 years in prison if found guilty of cultivating cannabis.

Hackney Homes Chair Rupert Tyson says: "It's thanks to the hard work of everyone involved that we will now be able to let this property to a person in genuine need." He adds: "Let this be a message to anyone considering abusing their tenancy in this way – we will find you."

Sergeant Andy Newman of Springfield Safer Neighbourhoods Team at Hackney Borough Police, says: "This is another example of Hackney Police acting to safeguard our community. We will always act on information received from members of the public whether it be within our local community or outside. We are here to improve the quality of life of the local community in Hackney and these sort of activities will not be tolerated.

We urge members of the public with any further information on this crime or any other illegal or suspicious activities to contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

**Ends**

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**Notes to editor**