

For immediate release, 9 Sep 09

George Howarth backs Help for Homeowners

Local MP, George Howarth, is backing a new national campaign which could help more than 4,000 people in the North West region avoid having their home repossessed.

John Healey MP Labour's Housing Minister today launched a new national campaign to help struggling homeowners take control of their finances and make the most of the support available for them to avoid repossessions and stay in their homes.

A series of press, online and billboard advertisements will highlight the measures the Labour Government has put in place at every stage for homeowners to avoid repossession.

This is especially relevant in Knowsley which has been highlighted as a repossession hotspot and will benefit from extra advertising.

George Howarth MP said:

"Over 300,000 people across England and Wales so far have received help and advice in paying their mortgage since April 2008 which is fantastic news.

"I have often met with constituents who face losing their home and I know it is one of the most frightening experiences for people. Thankfully there is a lot of help out there and this campaign is about ensuring people in Knowsley are aware of that. The worst thing people can do is bury their heads in the sand.

"The campaign will help homeowners regain control of their situation by offering practical advice through the new website, trained advisors at the National Debtline, and other organisations.

"This action stands in contrast to the lack of action taken by the Conservative Government during the last recession, who did nothing to help families facing the threat of repossession.

"Today the Conservatives have changed their words but not their actions. They are happy to advise people to take up the help that Labour has introduced - but voted against the funding to pay for key measures like our increased support for mortgage interest."

Notes to editors

1. Concerned homeowners will be able to go to www.direct.gov.uk/mortgagehelp, or contact the National Debtline on 0808 808 4000 for impartial advice, real life examples of people who have already benefited from support, and to develop a personal action plan tailored to their particular circumstances.

2. While this will be a national campaign, extra advertisements will appear in 22 “hotspots” – areas facing a greater risk of increased repossessions due to higher levels of unemployment and numbers of court orders.

3. REPOSSESSION CLAIMS AND ORDERS, QUARTER 2 2009 – By region

AREA	CLAIMS (percentage change on previous quarter)	POSSESSION CLAIMS LEADING TO ORDERS (compared to previous quarter)	PERCENTAGE OF POSSESSION CLAIMS LEADING TO ORDERS
England and Wales	26,419 (-32%)	19,123 (-35%)	72%
England	24,590 (-32%)	17,900 (-35%)	73%
North East	1,540 (-34%)	1,295 (-27%)	84%
North West	4,280 (-31%)	3140 (-38%)	73%
Yorkshire and Humber	2,760 (-31%)	1,920 (-37%)	69%
East Midlands	2,190 (-33%)	1,500 (-37%)	68%
West Midlands	2,835 (-34%)	1,985 (-44%)	70%
East	2,485 (-31%)	1,745 (-37%)	61%
London	3,780 (-32%)	2,825 (-27%)	75%
South East	2,930 (-34%)	2,210 (-30%)	75%
South West	1,790 (-31%)	1,285 (-32%)	71%

4. REPOSSESSION CLAIMS AND ORDERS, QUARTER 2 2009 – In Knowsley

AREA	CLAIMS	POSSESSION CLAIMS LEADING TO ORDERS	% OF POSSESSION CLAIMS LEADING TO ORDERS
Knowsley	140	95	68%

5. For more information visit <http://www.communities.gov.uk/>

6. To speak to George, call: 0151 546 9918 / 020 7219 6902 or email howarthg@parliament.uk