

ST LEGER HOMES OF DONCASTER LTD

Company limited by guarantee registered in England
Company Number 05564649

Joint Area Board

REPORT

- Date** : 10 November 2008
- Item** : 08
- Subject** : Hate Crime Reporting Centres
- Presented by** : Judith Jones
Director Customer Services
- Prepared by** : Mahroof Hussain
Diversity Manager
- Purpose** : Progress on Hate Crime Reporting Centres
- Recommendation** :
- Joint Area Board note progress setting up Hate Crime Reporting centres

Company Number 05564649
A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England

**To the Chair and Members of JAB
ST LEGER HOMES OF DONCASTER**

**Agenda Item No. 08
Date: 10 November 2008**

1. Report Title

1.1 Progress on setting up Hate Crime reporting centres.

2. Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this report is to give Joint Area Board an update on setting up Hate crime reporting centres.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Joint Area Board note progress on setting up Hate Crime reporting centres.

4. Background

4.1 In November 2007, Racist Multi Agency Partnership (RMAP) Strategic Group discussed the merits of expanding their remit into other aspects of Hate Crime. The group agreed it would be good practice to expand the partnership, however there was no further discussion regarding the desired end result, nor how this was to be led at a strategic level.

4.2 Subsequently, the work of the RMAP strategic group was reviewed and its functions re-aligned within the Safer Doncaster Partnership to ensure a strong strategic steer and accountability.

4.3 In May 2008, RMAP was included within the remit of the Violent Crime Theme Group that is chaired by Chief Supt Ged Gamble.

4.4 So far, there has been no clear strategic decisions nor timescales allocated to setting up Hate crime reporting centres. It is proposed following discussions with partners that St Leger homes progresses with setting up Hate crime Centre.

5 'Safe in South Yorkshire' Hate Crime Reporting System

5.1 'Safe in South Yorks' is a Hate Crime reporting site, a project that brings together the local community and agencies working together making South Yorkshire a safer place for all communities to live, work and socialise.

Through the 'Safe in South Yorks', Hate Crime Incidents can be reported via the following methods:

- Direct to Police – 0114 2202020, minicom 0114 2523294
- Via www.safeinsouthyorks.co.uk Website – Complete On Line form

- Self Reporting Pack – Complete form and send back in a pre-paid envelope
- St Leger Homes Incident Reporting Centres (Thorne Hall, Stainforth Office, Rossington Office, Sandbeck House, Adwick Town hall, Conisbrough Office)

5.2 Adopting the 'Safe in South Yorks' system for use in our offices will enable St Leger Homes to facilitate the 'hate crime' heading and demonstrate we have a process in place to be followed if such an incident was to be reported.

This system is an already established 3rd party reporting system, which is owned by the community but administered by South Yorkshire Police. St Leger Homes staff would need to complete the 'Safe in South Yorks' report form (either paper or online) with a victim and referring it to our Racist Incident Co-ordinator come Hate Crime Co-ordinator once the system is implemented.

5.3 The administrator of 'Safe in South Yorks' Rennie Brown of South Yorkshire Police has agreed to St Leger Homes becoming a partner and is prepared to assist in the implementation process.

Following general discussion with Rennie Brown, the following actions were agreed as a way forward: -

- Reporting centres will be within our current area offices.
- Training will be delivered by Rennie Brown but facilitated by our Training team.
- Two estates officers from each area office will receive training.
- The Centres will be displayed on the Safe in South Yorks Website and a news bulletin will be released and displayed on the homepage.
- The above will be delivered by December 2008.

5.4 The Racist Incident Co-Ordinator has discussed this option with the Council's Hate Crime Officer and it is likely that the Council's strategic group will eventually decide to make use of the 'Safe in South Yorks' Project.

By St Leger Homes implementing 'Safe in South Yorks' means we will not be going too far away from the multi agency path by adopting this process. The benefits of this are that the forms are already developed and the project is recognised both locally (where it was developed) and nationally (it was adopted across all police forces in England and re-named True Vision).

5.5 The proposal has been raised at both RMAP and the Violent Crime Theme Group and all partners recognised the need for St Leger Homes to implement Hate Crime Centres sooner rather than later and agreed that it would be sensible for us to use this established system.

6. Procurement

6.1 There are no specific procurement issues.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The proposal has been raised at both RMAP and the Violent Crime Theme Group and Council's Hate Crime Officer.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 We have a duty to promote equality of opportunity and combat discrimination in the light of the specific duties placed upon it under the Sex Discrimination Act, the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment Act 2000), the Disability Discrimination Act and European Directives. Tackling Hate Crime will support St Leger Homes commitment to ensuring we deliver a fair and equal services to all our customers.

9. Financial Implications / Risk / Diversity / Equality Impact Assessment

9.1 Financial

There are no specific financial implications. Rennie Brown of South Yorkshire Police will provide free training for front line officers. All internal costs for Staff training will be within mainstream budgets.

9.2 Value for Money

- 9.2.1 Setting up Hate Crime Reporting Centres will have a significant impact on our customers because it will allow St Leger Homes to give a good customer service and demonstrate Value for money in its service delivery.

The implementation of a Hate Crime Centres will bring about service improvement and increase outputs and productivity. This would be a 'non cashable saving' within VFM implications.

9.3 Risk

- 9.3.1 There are two risks with adopting 'Safe in South Yorks' Hate Crime Reporting centres.
- A) Safe in South Yorks system as operated by South Yorkshire Police has limited resource and so it does not currently cover all the hate crime strands. In addition to race, it does, however, cover LGBT and Disability, which are the next 2 highest reporting strands after race, so this is a long way to becoming a more established hate crime system.
- B) The Council's strategy group may decide they do not want to adopt the 'Safe in South Yorks' project into the wider hate crime expansion, which could mean that St Leger Homes have started along a path that would be different to the multi agency direction and would have to revisit its decision. However, after speaking to our partners, at this stage, that this is unlikely and it may still be a lesser risk than having less to present in terms of a hate crime reporting process, as part of the estate management inspection and Audit Commission cross cutting Diversity Key Line of Enquiry.

9.4 **Diversity**

9.4.1 This performance led approach to mainstreaming equality will contribute to achieving sustainable social, economic and environmental improvements for Doncaster and demonstrate in action St Leger Homes core values of putting people first, ensuring fairness and equity in service delivery and becoming a better employer.

9.4.2 It would also positively impact on the Audit Commission Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) for Diversity.

9.5 **Equality Impact Assessment (new/revised Policies)**

9.5.1 N/A

10. **Report Author**

Mahroof Hussain, Diversity Manager
Ext: (8) 62622,
email: mahroof.hussain@stlegerhomes.co.uk

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 None