

HOME SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Report of the Director of Derby Homes

SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. This report argues that the Home Safety Campaign should be discontinued. The Home Safety Campaign is no longer meeting the needs of tenants. UPVC installation and the implementation of new security improvement schemes mean that the Home Safety Campaign no longer provides value for money.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Derby Homes Board authorise the Director of Derby Homes to discontinue the contribution made by Derby Homes to the Home Safety Campaign.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Home Safety Campaign is managed and administered by Walbrook Housing Association who also carry out the work. It has been in existence since 1995. Derby Homes Housing Projects team manage the referral process and approve the work that is to be done.
- 3.2 The scheme was originally joint funded, but now relies entirely on funding from the repairs budget within the Housing Revenue Account.
- 3.3 Referrals are taken from Walbrook Care and Repair, Victim Support, the Police, The Burglary Reduction Scheme, Local Housing Offices, Social Services and from individual tenants or owner-occupiers.
- 3.4 The work carried out usually involves:
 - Mortice locks
 - Window locks
 - Spy holes
 - Door chains
- 3.5 The Campaign is offered to everyone, whether they have been the victims of crime, or just feel vulnerable. There is no charge made for the work whether the improvements are made to council or private tenants or owner-occupiers.

- 3.6 Local Housing Offices have leaflets in reception areas giving details of the scheme.
- 3.7 The Campaign guidelines state that the referrals must be weighted at 65% council tenants to 35% other. In the financial year 2001/2002, referrals received from the Burglary Reduction Scheme made the weighting favour private tenants and homeowners. In the current financial year, a restriction has been placed on the number of private referrals authorised in any given month.

Referrals Received

- 3.8 In the three financial years Housing Projects have been managing the Campaign, the following referrals have been received:

FINANCIAL YEAR	COUNCIL REFERRALS	PRIVATE REFERRALS	TOTAL
2000/01	50	35	85
2001/02	24	34	58
2002/03	32	3	35
TOTAL	106	72	178

- 3.9 The referrals have been received from the following sources:

REFERRAL SOURCE	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	TOTAL
Local Housing Offices	32	12	27	71
Police	17	0	0	17
Burglary Reduction	9	26	2	37
Self-Referral	6	12	5	23
Social Services	1	0	0	1
Victim Support	20	6	0	26
Walbrook	0	2	1	3
TOTAL	85	58	35	178

- 3.10 However most of the 27 referrals received from Local Offices during this Financial year have not been approved. This is because the work was not necessary as it conflicts with security improvements already planned as part of the UPVC window replacement contract.

Other Home Safety Schemes

- 3.11 There are other similar schemes in existence. They are:
- The Burglary Reduction Scheme provides home safety works to victims of crime only, chiefly in SRB6 (Normanton) and Neighbourhood Renewal area (Chaddesden). The Chief Executive's Department and the Police jointly fund this Scheme.

- The Social Services scheme undertakes a system of home safety through Walbrook in renewal areas (6 wards) for current social services users only.
- 3.12 Most referrals received by Housing Projects could be covered through either of these schemes.
- 3.13 In addition to this, UPVC installation programmes in Council houses have improved security, and under proposed programmes, further security improvements will be made.

CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

4. Walbrook Housing Association has been consulted on this issue.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Derby Homes sets aside £10,000 within the repairs and maintenance budget for this. The Housing Projects team agrees referrals, and then Walbrook carry out the work and invoice Derby Homes.
- 5.2 Although £10,000 is set aside each year, the take up falls well short of this figure. Any surplus at the end of the year is put back into the repairs account. No new referrals are being taken until Derby Homes Board makes a decision on the future of the scheme.
- 5.3 Since January 2000, invoices totalling £6863.49 have been received. During this financial year, invoices have been received totalling £649.52. No new invoices have been received since July.

LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS

6. None arising out of this report.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7. None.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The Home Safety improvements for Council tenants are being met through the capital programme. Other residents in the City benefit from other home safety schemes.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9. None.

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