

## FUNDING AN INDEPENDENT MEDIATION SERVICE IN DERBY

Report of the Director of Derby Homes

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. CETA St James provides an independent mediation service in Derby. This service was formerly provided by Derby Mediation Service Ltd. CETA St James has requested a grant of £10,000 to contribute to the running costs of this project now, called 'Mediation Derby'.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that Derby Homes continues to work with the Derby Mediation Service in 2003/4 and allocates a grant of £10,000 for 2003/4 to CETA St James to provide an independent mediation service.

### MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Mediation Derby provides a valuable independent mediation service for tenants in Council housing.
- 3.2 Between 1993–2002 it received 635 referrals and in 2002–2003 it received 85, concerning Council tenants. The majority of these referrals were made by Derby Homes' staff in local housing offices.
- 3.3 CETA St James aims to provide an independent mediation service for the people of Derby, to raise awareness of mediation issues so as to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect among neighbours, communities and the people of the City.
- 3.4 The Housing Service funded Derby Mediation Services Ltd each year since 1993. Funding has also been received from Derby City Council and other sources such as the original Safer Cities budget and by charging other local authorities and housing associations for casework. Derby Homes Board agreed to fund the scheme in 2002-03 at £10,000 in July 2002.
- 3.5 CETA St James is seeking further funding of £10,000 to contribute to the costs of employing a co-ordinator, providing resources to train volunteers, volunteer expenses, administration costs and a contribution to office rental charges.

- 3.6 The Best Value Review of Front Line Housing Services and Estate Sustainability identified a need to make more use of the Mediation Service. The Improvement Action Plan Number 9 states that an effective independent service needs to be reintroduced and providing financial support to CETA St James is essential to achieve this.
- 3.7 A funding agreement has been drawn up with CETA St James to clearly specify the responsibilities, targets and outcomes expected from the Mediation Derby project.

#### **CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS**

4. None.

#### **FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

5. Provision exists in the Grants to Voluntary Groups budget to provide funding of £10,000 for the financial year 2003/04.

#### **LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS**

6. There is a growing expectation from Courts that in appropriate cases mediation or some other form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) will have been attempted before legal proceedings are commenced. It is also a requirement that during the multi agency consultation process for Anti Social Behaviour Order applications that mediation is considered as an intervention process.

#### **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7. None.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

8. None.

#### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9. None.

#### **Contact Officer:**

Chris Robinson, Housing Manager (Tenancy Services), Telephone 01332 711052,  
Email [chris.robinson@derby.gov.uk](mailto:chris.robinson@derby.gov.uk)