



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 15 JUNE 2006

Report of the Director of the Chief Executive of Derby Homes

Harassment cases April 2005 – March 2006

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The committee is recommended to note the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Over the period of last 12 months efforts have been made to improve the consistency in completing the harassment reporting form and harassment investigation report form. Staff training and input from Harassment Response Officer have ensured a consistency of approach across all offices.
- 2.2 Action has also been taken to improve recording of time spent by staff in dealing with harassment cases to give us a clear idea of the time spent in managing these cases.
- 2.3 In the last 12 months we received 41 harassment complaints of which only one complaint was not of a racial nature. In previous years the number of complaints have been between 25 and 35. Full details of harassment complaints are given in Appendix 2, and a brief summary of each case is given in Appendix 3.
- 2.4 Derby Homes is working with the Community Safety Partnership to develop cross agency working on hate crime and harassment cases. This ensures that information on trends is shared, and support is provided in dealing with individual cases where necessary.
- 2.5 I'd like the Committee to particularly note the following trends:
 - Increase in reported harassment cases. (could be linked to better publicity about reporting and / or public confidence)
 - 36 cases involved verbal abuse
 - 4 criminal damage.
 - 1 assault
 - 28 in the South (Stockbrook Street and Sinfin quite high)
 - 13 in the North
 - 9 victims ethnicity unknown
 - 19 action was taken following investigation of complaints.
 - 22 no action taken

- 7 Notice of Seeking Possession served
- 7 perpetrator not known
- 12 warning letters issued
- 8 White people experienced harassment because they had BME friends or visitors.

These are more fully explained in Appendix 2.

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Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Implications

Appendix 2 – Analysis of harassment incidents.

Appendix 3 – Summary of harassment incidents.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1.1 None

Legal

2.1 None

Personnel

3.1 On average 3 hours 15 minutes are spent on each case. However more complex cases require far more staff time.

Equalities impact

4.1 It is Derby Homes' policy to thoroughly investigate cases of harassment or unequal treatment.

Harassment Incidents Recorded By Derby Homes From 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006

Below is an analysis of the various types of Harassment incidents reported to Derby Homes from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006:

Table 1

Type of Harassment	Number of Incidents
Race/Ethnicity/Nationality	40
Disability	0
Age	0
Gender	0
Sexuality	1
HIV/AIDS	0
Religion or Belief	0

The table above clearly indicates that racial incidents are reported more than any other hate crime.

Below is a breakdown of Harassment Incidents reported from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, as follows:

Table 2

Period	Number of Incidents Reported
1 April 2005 to 31 December 2005	31
1 January 2006 to 31 March 2006	10
Total incidents reported from 1 April 05 to 31 March 06	41

Type of racial Incidents reported

Below is a breakdown of the type of harassment incidents reported to Derby Homes from council tenants.

Table 3

Type of Racial Incident	Number of reports
Verbal abuse	36
Criminal damage	4
Assault	1
Graffiti	0
Other	0

The above table indicates that verbal abuse is the most common type of harassment reported.

Below is a breakdown of the geographical area where harassment Incidents have occurred:

Table 4

Locality of Incident	Number of reports
Mackworth	0
Allenton	3
Stockbrook St	7
Chaddesden Park	2
Sussex Circus	4
Cowsley	3
Alvaston	3
Austin	3
Spondon	0
Chellaston	0
Sinfin	6
Osmaston	5
Littleover	1
Brook St	4
Total	41

It appears from the table above that incidents are mostly occurring in the Sinfin and Stockbrook Street areas.

Below is an analysis of the victims and perpetrators ethnicity:

Table 5

Ethnicity of victim	Number recorded
British	0
Indian	1
Pakistani	3
Chinese	0
Other Asian	1
African	1
African Caribbean	5
Bangladeshi	0
Irish	1
White and Asian	1
White and Black African	2
Other white	2
White and African Caribbean	1
Any other black origin	3
Other dual Heritage	3
Other ethnic group	7
Unknown	9

Table 6

Ethnicity of perpetrator	Number recorded
British	28
Indian	0
Pakistani	0
Chinese	0
Other Asian	0
African	0
African Caribbean	0
Bangladeshi	0
Irish	2
White and Asian	0
White and Black African	1
White and African Caribbean	0
Other White	1
Any other black origin	1
Other dual heritage	0
Other ethnic group	0
Unknown	7

Summary

Statistical information shows that harassment incidents are geographically widespread. However the Sinfen and Stockbrook Street area seem to have more incidents reported than any other areas in the City. Adults compared to the young counterparts carry out the majority of the incidents; this is usually down to a neighbour dispute or a disagreement. This is measured by 55% of adult tenants compared to 50% of young people that have engaged in this type of behaviour.

Out of the 41 cases there have been 8 cases where white tenants had complained about racial harassment towards their Black Minority Ethnic (BME) visitors to their properties or hostility directly against them because of their association with BME people. These types of cases are dealt with in the normal manner and recorded as racially motivated taking the visitor as the victim.

HARRASSMENT INCIDENTS FROM 1 APRIL 2005 TO 31 MARCH 2006

Date of complaint

31/03/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant was subjected to verbal racial abuse from several youths on bicycles.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as the victim could not identify the alleged perpetrators. However the complaint was monitored further.

Date of complaint

12/04/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had allegedly been subjected to racial abuse by group of unidentified youths.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as alleged perpetrators could not be identified.

Date of complaint

19/04/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to verbal racial abuse by another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case. However the complaint was monitored further.

Date of complaint

09/05/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from the children of another council tenant. The alleged perpetrators also damaged the victim's car.

Outcome of complaint

Warning letter sent to the perpetrator and the complaint was monitored further.

Date of complaint

14/05/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant was subjected to verbal racial abuse from an owner-occupier.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case and also the perpetrator was an owner-occupier.

Date of complaint

16/06/05

Details of complaint

Council tenants' children had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case. However the compliant was monitored further.

Date of complaint

19/06/05

Details of complaint

Council tenants son was allegedly attacked racially abused another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

Warning letter sent to the perpetrator and case monitored further. No other action could be taken as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case.

Date of complaint

23/06/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to derogatory comments and has had his car spat on by another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

Warning letter sent to the perpetrator and the complaint was monitored further.

Date of complaint

23/06/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had allegedly been racially abusive towards another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

Warning letter sent to the alleged perpetrator and case monitored further.

Date of complaint

14/07/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been racially abusive towards a sub-contractor carrying out works to the property.

Outcome of complaint

Warning letter sent to the perpetrator and the complaint monitored further.

Date of complaint

16/07/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to racial abuse and had his door kicked by another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

A Notice of Seeking Possession was served to the perpetrator and the complaint monitored further.

Date of complaint

18/07/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been racially and verbally abusive towards a Councillor canvassing in the locality.

Outcome of complaint

Legal action taken against the perpetrator and subsequently an Injunction was granted by the courts. A Notice of Seeking Possession was also served to the perpetrator.

Date of complaint

21/07/05

Details of complaint

Council tenants son had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from another council tenants son. Both children then started to fight and allegedly the father of the perpetrator started to racially abuse the victim further.

Outcome of complaint

A Notice of Seeking Possession was served on the perpetrator and the complaint was monitored further.

Date of complaint

03/08/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to verbal racial abuse and threats from another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

A Notice of Seeking Possession was served to the perpetrator and the complaint monitored further. Consideration was also given to the possibility of taking court action.

Date of complaint

08/08/05

Details of complaint

Normanton Neighbourhood Wardens had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from a council tenant whilst on duty.

Outcome of complaint

A Notice of Seeking Possession was served on the perpetrator and the complaint was monitored further.

Date of complaint

25/08/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been racially abusive towards another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

Warning letter was sent to the alleged perpetrator and the complaint monitored further.

Date of complaint

31/08/05

Details of complaint

Council tenants' daughter had been racially abusive towards another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case. However mediation was offered, but both parties declined.

Date of complaint

05/09/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to verbal racial abuse by a group of youths who live in neighbouring properties.

Outcome of complaint

Warning letters were sent to the parents of the perpetrators and the case monitored further.

Date of complaint

07/09/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant informed the LHO that another council tenant had been racially abusive towards and Asian family in the locality.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as, the complainant did not want pursue the complaint further. Also the actual victim has not come forward to complain directly.

Date of complaint

13/09/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant and her children had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from another council tenant. The alleged perpetrators were also throwing rubbish into the victim's garden.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case. However the case was monitored further.

Date of complaint

29/09/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from an unknown female standing outside her property.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as the alleged perpetrator could not be identified. However the complaint was monitored further.

Date of complaint

05/10/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant daughter had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from her council tenant mother over a telephone conversation.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case. However the complaint was monitored further.

Date of complaint

13/10/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been racially abusive towards a security guard employed by First National Security. The council tenant also threatened to stab the victim.

Outcome of complaint

A Notice of Seeking Possession was served to the perpetrator and the complained was monitored further.

Date of complaint

20/10/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as the victim did not want to pursue the complaint further.

Date of complaint

24/10/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had made a racist comment towards a support worker visiting another council property.

Outcome of complaint

No further action could be taken, as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case. However warning letter was sent to the perpetrator.

Date of complaint

27/10/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to missiles being thrown at his property for a group of unidentified youths.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as the victim could not identify the perpetrators. However the complaint was monitored further.

Date of complaint

07/11/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from another council tenant. The victims property window was also smashed.

Outcome of complaint

No further action could be taken as there was insufficient evidence and also the alleged perpetrator is an owner-occupier.

Date of complaint

09/11/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been subjected to verbal racial abuse from unidentified youths.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as the perpetrators could not be identified.

Date of complaint

24/11/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant was subjected to verbal racial abuse from another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

Warning letter sent to the perpetrator and the complaint monitored further.

Date of complaint

28/11/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had eggs thrown at his window by a group of unidentified youths. The victim perceived this to be a homophobic attack.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as the alleged perpetrators could not be identified.

Date of complaint

01/12/05

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been racially abusive towards another council tenants partner.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case.

Date of complaint

03/01/06

Details of complaint

Council tenant allegedly forced his way into another council tenant flat and racially abused a 5 year old and assaulted the child's mother.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case.

Date of complaint

05/01/06

Details of complaint

Council tenants son had been racially abused by another council tenants daughter.

Outcome of complaint

Perpetrator had admitted being racially abusive towards the victim. Therefore a Notice of Possession was served.

Date of complaint

05/01/06

Details of complaint

A group of unidentified youths had been racially abusive towards a council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as the group of youths could not be identified.

Date of complaint

09/02/06

Details of complaint

Council tenant and children had been racially abusive towards another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

Complaint was upheld and a Notice of Seeking Possession had been served against the perpetrator.

Date of complaint

20/02/06

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been racially abusive towards another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken, as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case. However a warning letter was sent to the alleged perpetrator.

Date of complaint

24/02/06

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been racially abusive towards another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as the victim failed to cooperate and attend several appointments arranged for her.

Date of complaint

06/03/06

Details of complaint

Council tenant had allegedly been racially abusive towards another council tenant over the telephone.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as there was insufficient evidence to prove the case. However a warning letter was sent to the alleged perpetrator.

Date of complaint

13/03/06

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been racially abusive towards another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as the victim withdrew her complaint.

Date of complaint

27/03/06

Details of complaint

Owner Occupiers children were subjected to racial abuse from council tenants children. The incidents took place on school premises.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as the complainant refused to cooperate and also the incident took place on school premises. A referral was made to the Derby Racial Equality Council to work proactively with them.

Date of complaint

31/03/06

Details of complaint

Council tenant had been racially abusive towards visitors of another council tenant.

Outcome of complaint

No further action was taken as the alleged perpetrator had moved to another area before the complaint was reported. Victim had reported that no further incidents had occurred since perpetrator had moved from the property.

Below is a breakdown of the number of cases where action or no action has been taken against the perpetrator(s):

No of cases	Action taken	No action taken	Total
41	19	22	41

Below is an analysis of the different types of action taken and also reasons as to why no action was taken on the remaining 22 cases:

Table 6

Type of action taken	No of cases	Action not taken for the following reasons	No of cases
Notice of Seeking Possession	7	Unable to identify perpetrators	9
Warning letter	12	Fear of reprisals	4
Court action	0	Complaint withdrawn	0
Other	0	Other	7
Total	19	Total	22