



St Georges
COMMUNITY HOUSING



Press Release

Tenants to get 24hour support

St Georges Community Housing has launched a 24 hour fraud hotline as part of a campaign to protect tenants and to highlight the problem of housing fraud.

The hotline will allow residents to report any instances of fraud to the organisation and will provide a discreet and confidential, 24 hour service to help tenants report fraudulent activity.

May 2009

St Georges Community Housing is urging tenants to come forward if they have any information about illegal subletting, council tenancies obtained using a false identity, abandoned properties and fraudulent right to buy applications.

Steve Shynn, Interim Chief executive of St Georges Community Housing said: "Housing fraud is an important issue which we are committed to tackling. We have a responsibility to protect our tenant's rent and service charges and to make sure they are not abused.

The use of the 24 hour hotline means we are able to monitor the current situation and find ways to decrease the levels of housing fraud in the area".

The hotline will be manned by trained operators 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will be able to offer advice to tenants and to deal with any concerns quickly and effectively. All calls will be handled with strict confidence and tenants who suspect fraudulent activity should call the hotline on 01268 465047 or complete the online form at www.sgch.org.uk.

Approximately 5%* of social housing across the UK is unlawfully sub-let costing housing organisations thousands of pounds in lost

rent. The recovery of houses will both protect the rent of legitimate tenants and cut waiting lists for both families and individuals.

The launch of the new fraud hotline is part of the organisation's drive to improve services for tenants which will see a number of new initiatives launched over the coming months. St Georges Community Housing is gearing up for the organisation's inspection report due in June 2009 which could unlock further investment to enhance homes and the wider community.

St Georges Community Housing was established as an Arms Length Management Company (ALMO) in April 2007 and manages Basildon District Council's 12,900 homes and 5,900 garages. It works in partnership with the council and its residents to develop communities in which people are proud to live.

Ends

Company Registered in England and Wales: 6012151
Registered office: Dunton Court, 5-8 Aston Road, Laindon SS15 6NX