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Coventry social landlords take the lead in tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

A new and powerful force is being set up in Coventry to tackle neighbourhood nuisances.

The Coventry Consortium of Social Landlords is the UK's first housing association consortium set up to deal with anti-social behaviour.

The Consortium, made up of 13 housing organisations, is an innovative method to pool and build-on existing experience, expertise and good practice achievements in tackling aggressive tenant behaviour, including intimidation, graffiti and excessive noise pollution.

From now on, even the smallest housing organisation involved in the scheme will have access to specialist services and partnership agencies available to deal with anti-social behaviour.

This move also strengthens the relationship between Coventry's social landlords and the police, which was originally established in the 1994 Safer Estates Agreement between Coventry's housing associations and the police - an initiative which set up a protocol for joint working and lawful exchange of information.

In addition to local stakeholders, national backing will be given to the launch event through the attendance of Joe Tuke of the Home Office's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, Deborah Illott of the Housing Corporation - which has provided a £125,000 grant to fund the scheme, and Bill Pitt, the head of Manchester's nuisance strategy team and a leading light in combating anti-social behaviour.

Howard Farrand, Chief Executive of Whitefriars Housing Group, the largest housing organisation involved in the scheme, said:

“Anti-social behaviour is fast becoming a blight for tenants and residents of every city, town and village. Through setting up the consortium, the Coventry housing providers are showing a commitment to accepting the responsibility for tackling this issue. It is only through joint-working that the best solutions can be found.”

Joe Tuke of the Home Office’s Anti-Social Behaviour Unit added:

“This is an exciting development. Social landlords have a key role to play in combating anti-social behaviour. Through their initiative and innovation the Coventry Consortium is demonstrating that it is accepting and discharging its responsibilities to residents.”

Available over two years, the Housing Corporation Innovation and Good Practice grant is being used to fund a project to provide a model of best practice for RSLs to access the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), and specialist tenancy enforcement services.

The project has the full support of the CDRP, which has contributed an additional £10,000 to the project.

The work of the Consortium will be of relevance nationally and will be scrutinised by experts from Sheffield Hallam University.

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- When :** 10.15am – 10.30am, Wednesday, 2nd April, 2003
- Where:** Coventry City’s Highfield Road stadium
- What:** ***A UK first.*** The launch of the Coventry Consortium of Social Landlords. Over 50 people are expected to attend, including tenants, representatives from each housing

association, the police, the fire brigade, social services, the council, and other stakeholders.

Also attending will be the keynote speaker Bill Pitt, head of Manchester's nuisance strategy team and Joe Tuke of the Home Office's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit

A number of these individuals will be picking up litter and inspecting an abandoned car

**Available
for Interview:**

Howard Farrand, -Chief Executive, Whitefriars Housing Group

A tenant from Whitefriars Housing Group

Bill Pitt – head of Manchester's nuisance strategy team

Joe Tuke – Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour Unit

Chief Superintendent Bob Mitchell

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