




Impact Assessment of South Essex Homes

South Essex Homes is committed to working in partnership to reduce Anti Social Behaviour and maintain tenancies whilst improving communities.

Team and lead officer	Neighbourhood Services
Name of event	Family Intervention Project
Date of event	2006 - Present
<p>Summary of event</p>   	<p>South Essex Homes Neighbourhood Services had a family within an estate who were causing a number of problems with anti-social behaviour which was impacting on their whole community. The family were notorious for having youths hanging around outside their property and this was leaving residents feeling intimidated. A couple of the family members were constantly in trouble with the Police and despite intervention over the years, their behaviour continued until it erupted into a fight in the street which resulted in arrests being made.</p> <p>South Essex Homes on behalf of Southend Council and with the support of a number of residents took possession action on the family for numerous breaches of their Conditions of Tenancy.</p> <p>Due to the family having multiple social problems only a suspended court order was granted. As the behaviour of this family had been ongoing for a number of years it was highlighted that additional support would need to be put in place to support them, as well as help enforce the court order and ensure it was followed.</p> <p>A referral was put into the Family Intervention Project ('FIP') which was introduced as a government strategy set to tackle families causing anti-social behaviour who were at risk of losing their homes or putting their children at risk.</p>
Intended outcome	To work in partnership with the FIP team to find a positive outcome for the family and the estate that had been affected by their behaviour.



Actual outcome



The FIP team worked alongside South Essex Homes with the family extensively for approximately 18 months. During this time the families offending behaviour decreased and the youths involved were encouraged by FIP to seek employment which helped keep them from hanging around on the street.

Regular meetings were held with the family and the FIP Team and if any complaints were received they were addressed quickly and effectively. This allowed the family to understand what impact their behaviour was having on their neighbours and how they were perceived.

The FIP Team also worked extensively with the youngest member of the family within his school to ensure his attendance and behaviour improved.

After 15 months this family were able to sustain their own tenancy without further involvement of the FIP team. The complaints in regards to this household have greatly reduced and 6 months on they have integrated back into the community which were once up in arms and adamant that they wanted them evicted.

The case was closed in early 2008.

Lessons learnt

Government statistics estimate that every failed tenancy costs the Local Authority £20,000. By working in a proactive manner in partnership with other agencies, South Essex Homes was able to sustain the tenancy and provide the family with stability and support.