

## Press release

04 December 2006

### **Hackney Homes joins forces to tackle domestic violence and hate crime**

Hackney Homes and London Borough of Hackney teamed up with key agencies including the Police, women's organisations and local community members to launch two policy documents on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

The first of its kind in Hackney, these policy documents - Hackney Homes Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Policies and London Borough of Hackney's Corporate Domestic Violence Policy show the huge commitment to tackling these serious crimes within the borough.

Domestic violence and hate crime are significant crimes affecting a large number of residents, yet they remain largely unspoken of and hidden within many communities. Over the past twelve months, local police have been called to deal with over 2,000 incidents of domestic violence and over 400 cases of hate crime.

Opening the launch was Susmita Noonan, Hackney Homes' Director of Housing Services, who highlighted the work being done to ensure that victims of domestic violence and hate crime are able to access the wide range of services available and that their needs are adequately addressed. She said: "We are working very closely with a number of women's groups as well as black and minority ethnic groups to make sure that we are reaching those who may be less visible. In addition, staff are undergoing continuous training so that they can identify and work with people who may have difficulty approaching our services".

Also speaking at the launch was Meg Hillier, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch who thanked all agencies involved and most especially Hackney residents who had contributed to formulating these policies. She highlighted the importance of raising the awareness of domestic violence saying: "1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will suffer from domestic violence".

The afternoon provided an opportunity for those working with victims and witnesses of domestic violence and hate crime to share their experiences with one another and talk about best practice measures for raising awareness across the borough.

Everyone present at the launch welcomed the multi-agency approach being adopted in Hackney to stop domestic violence and hate crime, and also importantly, to break the cycle and reach out to those suffering in silence.

If you know someone who is affected by domestic violence or hate crime, here are details of some key organisations to get in touch with for help and advice:

**Hackney Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team**

Phone: 0800 056 0905 Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm

Email: [dvrhadvice@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:dvrhadvice@hackney.gov.uk)

**National Domestic Violence Helpline – 24 hours**

Phone: 0808 2000 247

**Hackney Police Community Safety Unit**

Phone: 020 7275 3087

In an emergency phone 999

**Broken Rainbow Forum – The pan-London Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence Forum**

Phone: 07812 644 914

**NIA Project (Formerly known as Hackney Women's Aid)**

Advice Line: 020 7683 1210

Emergency Line: 08457 023 468

**Shelterline Emergency Housing Support Service – 24 hours**

Phone: 0808 800 4444

**Hackney and City Victim Support**

Phone: 020 8533 5332

**Childline – 24 hour help for children and young people**

Phone: 0800 111 111

**The Housing Advice Centre**

020 8356 5869

**Hackney Homophobic Crime Forum**

020 7275 3087

**ELOP (East London Out Project)**

(Lesbian, gay men, bisexual and transgender victim support group)

020 8509 3898

**GALOP**

(Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community safety charity)

020 7704 2040

**Asian Women Advisory Service**  
020 8533 5796

**IMECE Turkish Speaking Women's Centre**  
020 7354 1359

**London Irish Women Centre**  
020 7249 7318

**Jewish Women's Aid**  
0800 591 203

Ends

Press queries to Olaide Oyekanmi on 0208 356 3522 or email  
[olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk](mailto:olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk)