

It's Kids Play!

By responding to the housing needs of the Wester Hailes area, Prospect has, to date, built large numbers of family sized main door houses. One result of this is that these properties are home to large numbers of children and where you have children you have the potential for problems.

Given the high proportion of family housing in the area, tenants need to be tolerant of the needs of children and children of the needs of others.

Tenants should remember that play is important for children and, particularly with young children, it is safer to play near to their home. A certain amount of noise in the street has to be expected.

It should also be remembered that tenants deserve some respect and children should be encouraged to avoid unnecessary disturbance, particularly of elderly and other vulnerable people.

Children and young people should avoid playing ball games off gable walls or in other areas where the thumping of the ball can cause a nuisance to individual households.

Lack of parental control

The primary responsibility for children lies with their parents. Tenants are encouraged to find out where their children are at all times.



Very young children are often put at risk when they are not under parental control. This is particularly the case late at night. If neighbours have concerns regarding this, they should contact the Social Work Department.

Children can often be involved in bullying and if your child is a victim of this, you are advised to speak to other parents, teachers, etc. It is generally advisable to avoid confrontation with the bully as this can create further problems.

Playing v vandalism



Where children are identified as causing deliberate damage to Association property we will seek to recover the costs of repairs from their parents. Anyone witnessing vandalism of our property should report the details to ourselves and to the Police if possible.

It can often be difficult to differentiate between an energetic game and deliberate vandalism. Parents are therefore encouraged to ensure that damage to planting, trees, etc. is kept to a minimum by directing energetic games to areas where they won't cause damage.

Ball games in particular are liable to result in damage to property and children should be discouraged from playing in car parks, court yards or similar areas.

The Association has no authority to deal with accidental damage to tenants' own possessions. If you experience damage to your car, etc. there is nothing we can do unless there is evidence that it is part of an orchestrated campaign by individuals who live in Association properties.

Play areas

Play areas within housing developments can be a real benefit if they are used properly. They are for children to play in and not as a focus for vandalism and destruction.

Play areas are intended to be used by children under 14 years of age. Older youths should be discouraged from using them as late evening meeting points since this inevitably results in vandalism and noise disturbance.

Play areas are normally 'adopted' by the

City Councils Recreation Department and any repair requests should normally be directed to The City of Edinburgh Council on 200 2000.

What can you do?

Prevention is better than cure! Parents can help prevent problems by knowing what their children are up to and encouraging them to avoid activities or areas which are likely to lead to nuisance.

If anyone has particular concerns about the abuse or neglect of children or young people, they should contact the Social Work

Department, either at Murrayburn Gate or the out of hours emergency team (554 4301).

Anyone witnessing malicious damage or vandalism should contact the Police giving as much detail as possible. If you are able to identify the culprits as living in Prospect Community Housing properties, also contact your Housing Officer.

Active participation in a Neighbourhood Watch can also prevent serious nuisance and anyone wishing further details should speak to their Housing Officer or a Police Crime Prevention Officer.



Prospect Community
Housing
6 Westburn Avenue,
Wester Hailes,
Edinburgh
EH14 2TH
tel: 458 5480
fax: 453 2868
email: [enquiries@
prospectch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@prospectch.org.uk)