

Welcome Note

Welcome to the third edition of the London Landlord Accreditation Scheme (LLAS) Newsletter.

We hope you all had a festive Christmas and that 2004 will be a good year for all.



This will be a relatively short

edition, as those same festivities have cut short the time between our last two Steering Group meetings.

Steering Group

The Steering Group met on Wednesday 17th December, the main item for which was the reporting back of the various sub-Groups set up to progress certain key aspects of the scheme.

The sub-groups cover the following topics:

1. Funding/Sponsorship
2. Training/Cert. Of Competence
3. Publicity/Leaflets/Pre-Launch
4. Incentives
5. Admin & Procedure/Code of Conduct



Each of the sub-groups received feedback on their work and will be carrying the ideas forward, hopefully

before the next Steering Group meeting set for Tuesday 3rd February 2004.

Data Protection Issues

The LLAS recognises the serious issues surrounding Data Protection, some of them quite complex, surrounding the thorny problem of when it is legally acceptable to share personal information held on people, for example landlords.



An important part of the LLAS is to ensure that only the well-intentioned landlords, thankfully in the large majority, are eligible to join the scheme and to 'root out' the few who abuse both the system and their tenants. This is to ensure the credibility of the scheme and to maintain its standing in the eyes of the future accredited landlords.



Keeping Landlords Informed

Leading on from the data protection issues, a database is being compiled of those landlords who have indicated that they wish to be kept informed of the progress of the LLAS. If anyone reading this Newsletter wishes to be added to the list, or knows someone else who does (preferably by electronic means, but the Newsletter can be posted if necessary), please let the Project Officer know as soon as possible.



Funding

Attracting additional funding remains an important part of the Steering Group's efforts, as it will help to secure the medium to long term future of the scheme.



This will be essential if landlords are to view the scheme as an attractive proposition which will be worth the effort involved in attaining accreditation. It is hoped that the availability of funding will become clearer over the next few days, as we understand that bids have to be submitted to the London Housing Board by the end of this month.

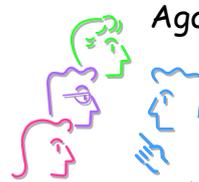
London Boroughs currently 'signed up' to Scheme

There are now 30 London Boroughs signed up, or about to sign up to the

scheme and the Project Officer will be making a concerted effort early in January to encourage the other three authorities to join in, so that it can become a truly London-wide scheme.

Landlords' Reference Group

Another early-year task will be to facilitate the setting up of this group in order to help canvass the views of a representative sample of practising landlords on the most important aspects of making the LLAS a success.



Again, please contact the Project Officer if you are interested in joining this Reference Group, or if you know someone else who you think would.

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