



Social Housing Action Campaign

SHAC Updates 7th November 2023

| Protest the Housing Awards | Disability & ASB |
| Stop Victim Blaming the Homeless | Safe Home Visits |



Ten Days to Go!

Our protest is fast approaching. We will be picketing outside the (un) Affordable Housing Awards on the **17th November between 11am and 4pm.**

Among the shortlist are many names that would appear in any rogues gallery of housing associations: Accent, Grand Union, Housing 21, Karbon, Orbit, Peabody, Riverside, Stonewater, and Thrive Homes.

The feasting and self-congratulations of a housing sector that has repeatedly failed its tenants and residents will be taking place at the Old Trafford ground in Manchester.

If you can make it, please join us. If you can't, please help us Twitter storm the event at 12 noon on Friday 17th to coincide with the start of their festivities. Add a note to your diary and we will send a special mailing shortly with details.



Disability and Anti-Social Behaviour

Last week we had the revelation of a tragic case of Mark Pearce, a disabled [Clarion tenant who suffered noise nuisance](#) so bad that he ended up taking his own life.



As so often, the trigger was the landlord's refusal to treat the issue seriously or with due urgency. At one point, staff even described the tenant as 'whining'.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is a familiar story and devastates lives even if it doesn't result in a tragic death.

ASB often crosses over with disability either because disabled tenants and residents are wrongly tagged with an ASB label, or because they are targeted by perpetrators because of their disability. Both are extremely harmful.

SHAC already has a [Disability Visibility](#) campaign with advice, resources, and lobbying materials. We'll shortly publish a similar campaign page on the issue of ASB.



Victim Blaming Homeless People

Shocking though it may seem, the Home Secretary Suella Braverman is seeking to add a criminal sanction to the Vagrancy Act of 1824 to stop homeless people pitching tents in what might be considered 'inconvenient locations'.

The [BBC reported](#) on a Twitter message she posted declaring that for some, homelessness was a 'lifestyle choice'.

This is an appalling lack of humanity. It would allow authorities to target those who have the least access to resources in our society and take the few remaining possessions they have. Her statements blame the homeless for their predicament.

The petition to stop her has already reached over 100,000 signatures. Please [add your name](#).



Disclosure &
Barring Service

Keeping Safe During Home Visits

Landlords can and should check for a criminal record before they hire staff in roles involving home visits. They should also expect their sub-contractors to do the same. The process is managed by the [Disclosure and Barring](#)

[Service](#) and is called a DBS check.

We know however that not all landlords do what is needed. NHG for example don't make this demand on their subcontractors.

If you are scheduled for a repair or other home visit, contact your landlord to ask if those engaged to carry out the visit are all DBS checked. We would recommend asking that they only send DBS checked staff in order to keep you safe.

WhatsApp Campaign Groups

SHAC members increasingly use WhatsApp to communicate between meetings, provide peer support, and plan action. Click on the relevant links below if you would like to join in.

[SHAC Campaigns](#) | [Clarion](#) | [Hyde](#) | [MTVHA](#)

Take Action

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