

Eastfield Action Group

Eastfield Action Group has been going for eleven years and is affiliated to Newcastle Tenants Federation. It has helped shape local housing and environmental services in the Eastfield area of Walkergate.

The group is represented on the Fed's Living in Flats working group. Its reps closely follow the cleaning performance in their multi storey flats – Dene, Walkerdene and Eastfield. Locally, reps take time to accompany the YHN concierge supervisor on inspections, highlighting areas that need improving.

In the last 3 years, concerns have been raised about the cleaning standards in Walkerdene and Eastfield blocks. YHN has worked with the contractor to remedy the situation, but there is still more to do. The Living in Flats working group will be receiving a detailed progress report at their November meeting.

Eric Heron, treasurer says: "Things are getting better and better. If it were not for the Action Group and the Federation, things wouldn't have been like this and YHN has been very supportive of us too".

The group has been at the forefront of involving refugees and asylum seekers. They have worked with the Fed to translate publicity into languages spoken within their community. This has paid off, with most refugees and asylum seekers in the flats knowing of the group and some attending meetings. Some have also joined the committee and are now part of the Living in Flats working group and BME Tenants Forum.

When they are not meeting to review services in their neighbourhood, the group also runs a community laundry and supports the planning on football sessions and fun days for 4-17year olds.

Maureen Lawson, chair says: "Environmental standards are so high on Eastfield estate. Landscaping and the rowing boat feature have given the community centre a facelift. The area is cleaned up and anti-social behaviour is virtually non existent. This wouldn't have happened without the help of Kevin Ward (NRM) and Nora Blackett (YHN)".