SLH Board response to the 2024/25 complaints annual report

The Housing Ombudsman introduced the complaints handling code that became statutory from the 1 April 2024. We have completed a self-assessment against the code that has been submitted to the Housing Ombudsman. This is available here.

The SLH Board are pleased to confirm that SLH is compliant with the code.

The focus on strengthening customer insight at board level has continued to be a key focus throughout 2024/25 and the board are pleased to see the improvements that have been made as a result of feedback. This will continue to remain an area of focus during 2025/26.

Our board member that is responsible for complaints (MRC), receives regular updates in relation to customer feedback, including complaints. Furthermore, where possible, a board member attends and chairs all stage 2 complaint review panel meetings. This ensures members are kept informed of complaints that are escalated to stage 2 and are often referred to, during board meetings.

Our customer services committee also receives quarterly customer feedback updates. Members of this committee, who are our tenants, provide feedback from a tenant's perspective. This supports us when identifying improvements that we need to make.

At our board meeting in May 2025, we agreed SLH's objectives for 2025/26 and specific customer feedback objectives have been set in conjunction with the people (residents) strategy:

- (1) Improve the complaint handling culture by having a collaborative approach towards resolving complaints and ensuring that lessons are learned from customer feedback that has a positive and measurable impact on services for tenants.
- (2) To increase the number of engaged tenants that feed into service delivery and improvement.

We will receive bi-annual updates at board meetings, in terms of progress against these objectives. You can read more about how we intend to meet these objectives here.

We will continue to promote our customer feedback policy throughout 2025/26 with all stakeholders to support our culture of receiving and learning from complaints and dissatisfaction. Some of the ways we will do this include:

- Customer feedback to form part of relevant team meetings to embed the learning
- Regular organisation-wide communication of learnings and the actions that have been put in place
- Internal stakeholders "let's talk about sessions", updates in the fortnightly executive leadership team briefings, and
- External stakeholders updates in the bulletin magazine to tenants, social media and on the customer feedback page on the SLH website.