

Housing Associations

The Riverside Group

About The Riverside Group

The Riverside Group was established in 1928 as Liverpool Improved Houses. The Group has grown significantly over the past few years following a number of mergers and acquisitions, as well as stock transfers from Local Authorities. Riverside now owns or manages around 40,000 houses throughout the UK.



Requirements

Following a period of tremendous growth, Riverside had amalgamated a number of Head Office functions, housing stock and employees in a short period of time. They identified a need for specialist Health & Safety knowledge and expertise to help them develop and implement their corporate Health & Safety policy, standardise Health & Safety across their diverse range of schemes, minimise risks and ensure they remain fully compliant with government legislation. Riverside initially considered employing someone in-house to tackle this area, but decided that using external consultants would give them access to a much deeper level of expertise and experience.

Health & safety is a complex area for Housing Associations in general given the large number of properties and staff usually involved, coupled with changing legislation.

“Health & Safety is extremely important to us. It’s not just about staying compliant, I want to ensure things are done properly and that Riverside is a safe and secure place for all our staff, our customers and our suppliers.”

Jane Keegan, The Riverside Group

Solution

EDP were invited to tender for the work along with a number of other companies. EDP were chosen for their ability to fully address the brief, their value for money proposal and for their proven ability to deliver similar tailored solutions to other companies. Riverside were also impressed with EDP’s partnering approach.

Jane Keegan said:

“I liked the fact that EDP wanted to partner with us to get us to where we wanted to go at our own pace – rather than taking over and insisting on doing it all their way!”

A Winning Partnership

EDP worked closely with Riverside to develop the company's Health & Safety Policy and help them achieve their objectives. Work carried out has included a comprehensive Compliance Review, as well as Risk Assessments throughout the Group. Specialist 'Executive briefings have kept Directors informed of their roles and responsibilities, and EDP have provided additional help and support in many critical areas including a large Asbestos Management project, Contractor Management and Construction Design Management (CDM). They are now viewed as trusted advisors.

EDP and Riverside now have a well established partnership that has gone from strength to strength. EDP continues to work alongside Riverside to ensure they remain compliant as well as controlling and minimising risks.

“Whilst EDP have been brilliant at helping us with the basics – such as developing and implementing our corporate policy – they have also amazed me with the depth of their knowledge and expertise and their ability to respond quickly and efficiently with any new challenges we have faced. We now have a clear road map of where we are going and how we will get there, but also have the flexibility to react swiftly to changes. I see EDP as a key partner moving forward and would not hesitate to recommend them!”