

# **Loughborough BID Complaints Procedure**

## **Complaints Policy**

### **1. Complaints Policy Statement**

Love Loughborough BID Management team:

- is committed to providing a good standard of quality services to businesses, organisations and the public
- will take seriously any concern or complaint and will look into it promptly, for resolution as quickly as possible
- recognises that all businesses, organisations and the public:
  - have the right to raise concerns or complaints about our services
  - have access to clear information on how to voice complaints and concerns
- will deal with complaints in line with Loughborough BID Privacy Policy
- will keep a register of all complaints, which will be reviewed regularly by the Board of Management
- complaints procedure will be part of the process of monitoring the quality, effectiveness and non-discriminatory nature of its services
- All staff and BID Board of Management are required to read, understand and comply with this policy and its procedures

### **2. Introduction**

2.1 Loughborough BID strives for high standards in service delivery and welcomes feedback from individuals, businesses, stakeholders, members of the public and anyone who works with us, on all aspects of our work. Such feedback is invaluable in helping us evaluate and improve our work.

2.2 The objectives of Loughborough BID complaints policy and procedures are to:

- Ensure everyone knows how to make a complaint and how a complaint will be handled
- Ensure that complaints are dealt with consistently, fairly and sensitively within clear time frames
- Provide individuals with a fair and effective way to complain about our work
- Ensure that complaints are monitored to improve our services

2.3 Loughborough BID will ensure that we:

- Listen carefully to complaints and treat complaints as confidential, where possible
- Record, store and manage all complaints accurately and in accordance with the Data Protection Act
- Investigate the complaint fully, objectively and within the stated time frame

- Notify the complainant of the results of the investigation and any right of appeal
- Inform the complainant of any action that will be implemented in order to ensure that there is no re-occurrence
- Report on an annual basis, the number of complaints received, the outcomes and any actions taken.

### 3. Definition of a complaint

3.1 A complaint is any expression of dissatisfaction by an individual, whether justified or not.

3.2 An individual may make a complaint if they feel Loughborough BID has:

- Failed to provide a service or an acceptable standard of service or made a mistake in the way the service was provided
- Failed to act in a proper way
- Provided an unfair service

## 4. Concern or Complaint

4.1 It is important to establish the difference between a concern and a complaint. Taking informal concerns seriously at the earliest stage will reduce the likelihood of their developing into formal complaints.

4.2 If you have any concerns about our work please tell a staff worker or the BID manager as soon as possible, so they can quickly understand your concerns and try to put things right.

4.3 If you are not happy with the response to your concern and/or you want to make a formal complaint please follow the procedure below.

## 5. Complaints Procedure

5.1 Loughborough BID aims to settle the majority of complaints quickly and satisfactorily by the member of staff who provides the service. The complaint may be resolved quickly by way of an apology or by an acceptable explanation to the individual.

5.2 There are three stages to the complaint's procedure:

- Stage One – the complaint
- Stage Two – investigation
- Stage Three – appeal

### 6. Stage One - Complaint

6.1 The complaint can be written or if the individual prefers they can tell someone at Loughborough BID, or someone else, who will write it down for them. The complainant will need to sign it.

6.2 Individuals wishing to make a complaint should contact the person who provided the service, or the BID manager. Alternatively, they can contact us by writing to: Loughborough BID, Southfields, Southfields Road, Loughborough, LE11 2TR

Or by emailing to the BID Manager at [lisa@loveloughborough.co.uk](mailto:lisa@loveloughborough.co.uk)

6.3 The complaint should include the complainants name and address, the nature and date of the complaint and how they want to see it resolved. The complaints form can be requested and can be sent to the complainant or collected by the complainant.

6.4 On receipt, complainants must receive an acknowledgement within 7 working days of receipt of a signed complaint.

## **7. Stage Two - Investigation**

7.1 All complaints at this stage should be dealt with by the BID manager or the BID Board of Management Directors. If they need to meet with the complainant, they will do so within 7 working days of receiving the written complaint.

7.2 Complaints will be fully investigated, and a written response provided to the complainant within 10 working days by the investigator.

7.3 The complainant will receive written confirmation of the outcome of any investigation any recommendations/remedies made, such as reviewing of policies, staff development and training or appropriate improvement to our services.

7.4 Where the complaint is upheld an apology should be offered.

7.5 Occasionally investigations may take longer, particularly if the complaint is complex. Should this be the case a holding letter will be sent after 10 working days and a final date given for a conclusion to be reached.

7.6 If an individual remains dissatisfied with the outcome from Stage Two they can appeal within 14 working days of the date of the outcome and progress to Stage Three.

## **8. Stage Three - Appeal**

8.1 If the complaint cannot be resolved to the complainants satisfaction at stage two, or if the manager feels that the complaint is of a very serious nature, or concerns a service leader then it will be referred to the BID Chairman.

8.2 If the complaint is about the BID Manager then the matter will be discussed with the BID Chairman and Vice Chairman.

8.3 The BID Chairman will acknowledge receipt within 7 working days, they will review the Stage Two investigation and recommend one of the following actions within 10 working days (from the date the complainant stated they wanted to take the complaint to stage 3):

- Uphold the action taken at Stage Two
- Make changes to the Stage Two recommendation/actions

8.4 The complainant should be informed in writing of the outcome of stage three, the decision reached about this complaint will then be final but other options available to the complainant (as listed below) should be detailed in the letter.

8.5 If after Loughborough BID has been through the three stages and the complainant is still not satisfied with the result, they should be advised that there is no further right of appeal with Loughborough BID but they could approach any of the following agencies for advice:

- A solicitor
- Citizens Advice Bureau

This should be done within one month of receiving the outcome from the appeal.

## **9. Anonymous complaints**

9.1 Complaints received anonymously will be recorded and considered, but action may be limited if further information is required to ensure a full and fair investigation.

## **10. Data protection**

10.1 To process a complaint Loughborough BID will hold personal data about the complainant, which the individual provides, and which other people give in response to the complaint. We will hold this data securely and only use it to address the complaint. The identity of the person making the complaint will only be known to those who need to consider the complaint and will not be revealed to other people or made public. However, it may not be possible to preserve confidentiality in some circumstances, for example, where relevant legislation applied or allegations are made which involve the conduct of third parties.

10.2 Loughborough BID will normally destroy complaints files in a secure manner six years after the complaint has been closed.

## **11. Monitoring**

11.1 Complaints are an important tool which, alongside data provided by business and public surveys, provide a useful source of information about how individuals see our services and how we are serving them. To ensure we can learn from complaints the following data will be collected:

- Name and address
- Name of person dealing with the complaint
- Date of complaint and response
- Nature of complaint
- Action(s) taken/recommendations made in response to the complaint Lessons learnt

11.2 Complaints information will be considered on a regular basis by the BID Management Team and reported annually to Loughborough BID Board of Management. Wherever possible the data will be used to improve and develop the service.