Meeting of ERoSH NI Network

Wednesday 13 September 2017

11am

Brennen Court

Present

Brendan Morrissey Clanmil Housing Association (Note)

Jim Chapman Choice Housing Association (Chair)

Heather Smyth Abbeyfield & Wesley Housing

Cherry Greer Radius Housing Association

Apologies

Paul Armstrong NIFHA

Ellen Hall Apex Housing Association

Emma McLaughlin Alpha Housing Association

Helen Collins Abbeyfield & Wesley Housing

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were recorded. A general discussion was held about the recent news that a retirement village is to be developed in Carrickfergus by a private developer, to include a range of homes and services for older people, including leisure spa and wellbeing centre. Plans and initial proposals were in the local press but it is uncertain at present if there are any oppurtunuites to include a social housing mix in the plan.

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| **Item**  |  |
| 1. | **Review of ERoSH AGM**JC reviewed the AGM which was held in June and was a good success. Guest speakers included Rebecca Mollart, Ben Collins and Sheenagh McNally. The minutes of the AGM were agreed as a true and accurate record. It was agreed that it was up to each member of the group to champion and promote ERoSH to lobby for local issues impacting Older People and the example of the Keep on Supporting People Campaign was used. As a collective the voice of ERoSH should support our own organisations in common goals.  |
| 2. | **Frequency of Meetings & Agendas** Concern was expressed by HS that if there was poor turnout to meetings, such as today, we would be better meeting bi annually as opposed to quarterly. BM felt that whilst it was disappointing however to keep momentum going and focus quarterly meetings would be more productive and hopefully effective. JC stressed that those who offered apologies today are always at the table and it was agreed quarterly with dates issued now would be effective. It was agreed that there should be some standard items which reflected the National meetings and they included:- 1. Fire Safety
2. Safeguarding
3. Social Value of Sheltered Housing
4. Celebrating Retirement Housing
5. Hoarding
6. Supporting People Campaign (Northern Ireland only)

JC shared a recent case study and the action taken to address a severe hoarding issue and there was discussion around examples and sharing such examples with the group. CG raised a query around fire safety and allocations of ground floor only properties to those unable to use stairs in an emergency. There was uncertainty around allocations in this case. CG to discuss with NIHE policy and report back.  |
| 3. | **Keep on Supporting People Campaign** Discussion was held around the 5% cut to SP funding in June of this year and how various providers were addressing this internally and with tenants. Most Has are absorbing the cost this year but emphasis was placed on the necessity to support the Keep on Supporting People campaign which is being led by NIFHA. BM advised that NIFHA had appointed a communications agent to liaise with providers as they were co-ordinating a roadshow across NI to showcase schemes and demonstrate the impact that the support services, such as sheltered and supported housing, amongst others, has on the lives of vulnerable people. It was agreed ERoSH have a key role to play and will support future events in its own entity.  |

**Agreed Actions**

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| Item | Action | Action by | Action Date |
| 2.  | Cherry Greer to contact the NIHE policy unit to discuss allocations of properties that are not on ground floor to people who cant evacuate, to establish their position.  | Cherry Greer | End October 2017  |
| 3. | Agreed that all members to check with their organisations to confirm that they have responded to NIFHA call to support their campaign on SP  | All  | Immediate |

Dates of Next Meetings: -

13th December 2017 (Hosted by Radius Housing)

14th February 2018

9th May 2018