**EROSH KENT NETWORK EVENT MINUTES**

**Date and Time:** Wednesday 23 January 2019

**Venue:** Emerald Walk, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

**Attended:** Jo McTavish

Nicola Constable – Town and Country

Doug Snowdon – Town and Country

Lesley Green – West Kent Housing

Amanda Fairman – West Kent Housing

Simon Foster – Peabody Housing

Vivienne McIntyre – Anchor Hanover Housing

Kirsty Ferguson – Kent Fire and Rescue Service

Robert Archibald – Kent Fire and Rescue Service

**Apologies** Linda Lumsden – Optivo

Mandy Ware – Anchor Hanover Housing

Kay Green – Ashford Borough Council

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|  | **AGENDA ITEM** | **BY** |
| 1 | **EROSH UPDATE**  Trustees of EROSH meeting held on 6/11/18.  Membership on target.  Fees increasing from January 2019 in line with inflation.  Targeting small providers and alms houses for new members.  Produced “How to be a sensitive contractor” – how contractors should behave in older people’s homes. Training to Coastal Housing and want to develop further.  Funding to develop website – EROSH shop window.  2019 – increase membership.  Survey to see what organisations are looking for.  Got sponsorship for good practice guides – working on Digital Switch Over/LGBT and sheltered retirement housing/resident involvement at strategic level/volunteering.  Looking to fill vacant posts of Secretary, Vice Chair and Treasurer and another patron in Wales and N Ireland. | Jo McTavish |
| 2 | **HOME STRAIGHT – WHAT IS HOARDING**  Presentation from Simon Foster – Community Health and Housing Co-ordinator from Peabody Housing Trust.  Simon gave a powerpoint presentation which he said he would share with us.  Simon covers Tunbridge Wells,the post is funded by Tunbridge Wells BC For services in other parts of Kent in first instance contact your local authority. Post started April 2018.  The service is free at point of use. Additional charges may apply ie disposal of items.  There are lots of causes of hoarding and defined as individual mental health issue by WHO in June 2018.  People who hoard have similar brain patterns to people with addictions. They obtain excessive items and are not able to discard.  1 – acquisition = compulsive either buy or free.  2 – inability to throw things away.  3 – lack of ability to organise their possession or declutter.  The objective becomes important due to shape and colour rather than functionality.  2-5% (approx. 1.2m people) of UK are hoarders and more predominant between ages 55-94 years.  Be mindful of language used when speaking. Avoid the words “rubbish”, “discard” – use “letting go”, “gifting”, “donating”.  Don’t touch without asking.  Usually work with other organisations such as Fire Services, Social Services, GP.  Work with people at their pace supporting them to adopt healthy habits ie cleaning and keeping tidy.  Set small smart tasks. – ie throw away 1 item per week.  Give positive praise when task achieved.  System process:-  Referral  Joint meeting  Initial assessment  Support plans  Referrals to other organisations ie CAB/Counselling services  Set goals  Short term plan and review  Sorting/talking/decisions  Q – how many sessions would a person have.  A – service started last April and still working with many of the clients.  Q – how clients do you have.  A - 17.  Q – what happens if person is creating danger or danger to others.  A – Fire Service will work to legislation. They can also instruct landlords to take necessary measures. | Simon Foster |
| 3 | **SAFE AND WELL VISITS**  Safer living service. [www.kent.fire-uk.org/saferliving](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/saferliving)  Kirsty and Archie (Robert) gave a fire safety presentation.  Kirsty is the Technical officer and involved in the Safer Living Service, visiting schemes, tenants in their homes and generally working with landlords to ensure schemes are safe. The technical teams undertake fire safety audits. Currently programming these in with organisations. 700 schemes to visit and 18 inspectors. Fire Service inspector and a crew will attend. Crew attend to familiarise selves with the schemes.  The offer free seminars – last one on 13/2/19 in Ashford. Please contact them to book a place on future seminars.  Some interesting points:  Pan fires – Turn off power if safe to do so and leave the room. Do not attempt to put a wet tea towel over the pan.  Stay Put Policy – you don’t have to hear a communal alarm if you are in your home. Your home is a safe compartment.  Q – Mobility Scooters – can they be parked in corridors.  A – NOT in corridors and NOT to be charged in corridors. Fire Service will comply with their policies and advise providers accordingly.  Inspections are scored against legislation articles and scores are added up. Depending on the score depends on the actions taken.  Article 14 is for scooters and scooters would indicate a deficiency and if the only deficiency was scooters this would be enough to score below the standard.  Leaflets and cards were available for everyone to pick up.  Useful website and contact number:-  Business [firesafety@kent.fire-uk.org](mailto:firesafety@kent.fire-uk.org) Tel: 01622 212442 | Kirsty Ferguson and Robert Archibald |
| 4 | **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**  Dementia project  Open conversation around dementia services and good practice  Follow up on the hoarding session to include case studies/housing providers working with hoarders. | Viv Lyons  All  All |
| 5 | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING –** Wednesday 3 April 2019 at 10.30.  Venue to be confirmed by Jo McTavish | All  Jo McTavish |