

**CARE AND REPAIR SCOTLAND
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 26th
JANUARY 2024 AT OFFICES OF EVH, SAUCHIEHALL STREET,
GLASGOW**

Present: Gerry Power,
(Chair) Ian Graham,
Region 1
Angela Brunton, Region 3

Robert Thomson, National Director

1. Welcome and Apologies

Gerry Power welcomed Board members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Andy Douglas, Region 2 and Jamie Burgess Region 4. Ian joined by Zoom link as he had to remain in the office and cover for a member of staff.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minute of 27th October 2023 meeting was approved without amendment.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Robert to chase up letter to Housing Minister requesting a meeting about the National Care Service and the future role of C&R.

Robert reported that SG has advised that there are a number of issues under consultation and it is not the best time to discuss Care and Repair in this context.

Robert and Gerry will meet to discuss how to present the digital inclusion funding to Care and Repair offices and agree the wording of an invitation for bids.

Action: Robert and Gerry met on 10th November and an invitation sent to all offices on 13th November. Two bids were received and they will be discussed at today's meeting.

Robert to speak to Paul McMahon at EVH to discuss the options available to members of EVH and arrange for a tailored training event in early 2024.

Action: Robert will withdraw from today's meeting around noon to allow Paul McMahon, the Director of Employers in Voluntary Housing, to meet with Board members to outline the principals of succession planning.

5. Update on The National Care Service

The Board discussed an extensive report circulated by the Health and Social Care Alliance that outlines the current consultation discussions. The main issue for Care and Repair would be that local budgets would be absorbed by a new service and the Care and Repair funding would therefore move from Local Authorities to the NCS. There is also no mention of housing in the consultation document and those were the two issues that Gerry highlighted in his letter to the Minister. It was noted that Andy has previously reported to the Board that Trades Unions and COSLA have negative views about the proposals. The integration of health and social care is something that was discussed when

Ian Gray was leader of the Labour Party and by Mike Martin, a previous member of CRS Board, was one of the Directors of NHS.

Action: It was agreed that we will keep a watching brief on progress and we will liaise with colleagues from the Health and Social Care Alliance.

6. National Director's Report

Joint Regional Meeting

Regional 3 and 4 held a hybrid meeting for the first time since lockdown restrictions. There were managers who have been in post for only a few months, who found the meeting very helpful and allowed them to network and arrange to meet up with more experienced colleagues.

Meeting with Care and Repair Cymru

Care and repair Cymru has a new Policy Manager and we discussed a number of common issues as well as possible future working subjects, including SROI and pursuing joint funding opportunities.

APPCOG

CRS is a member of the Westminster All-Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group. The Group held its first hybrid meeting that was based in London and brought together some MPs to discuss who feasible it would be to introduce legislation in England like the interlinked fire alarm legislation in Scotland.

Glasgow Care and Repair Advisory Group

The first meeting of the Group brought together senior representatives from Private Sector Housing, OT Service and NHS. We discussed the remit for the Group and the findings of the review of Glasgow's services which CRS participated in.

SHN Group Meeting

The Scottish Housing Network held a well-attended meeting where each Council area and CRS gave an update on funding, grant spend and backlogs. There were worrying reports from around the country that Councils have ran out of money for adaptations and are already building substantial backlogs.

Falls Prevention 4 Nation Group

I attended two meetings of the group. One was a general update from the 4 nations meeting and the other was to discuss at length looking at existing falls literature available to the public and seeking to find a way to rationalize this information. This meeting was attended by 93 representatives from NHS Scotland.

Scottish Government Accessible Living Group

The Group discussed accessible living standards in new build homes but we also covered the

challenges of retro-fitting existing homes.

Inverness Quality Mark

Inverness has completed their desktop assessment and a visit will be arranged for early February to finalise the Quality Mark award.

Meeting with Ian Graham

Ian and I met in Inverness to provide a Board member induction on the background of CRS and current issues around the country.

Meeting with Gerry Power (Chair)

Gerry and I met to sign off the annual accounts and discuss our approach to the Digital Inclusion funding bids.

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Safety

The National Director gave a presentation about Care and Repair at the meeting of the Cross Party Working Group on Safety in November. The presentation outlined the services provided by Care and Repair and how we contribute to the safety of homeowners. The Group were particularly interested in the personalised service that we provide.

7. Financial Statement

Robert advised that he has submitted a funding request for 2024-25 to Scottish Government.

The Board noted and approved the Financial Statement.

8. Digital Inclusion Pilot Funding

CRS had a small sum of money (£35,000) that was in a restricted fund that should be used to encourage and practically assist Care and Repair clients to understand the contribution digital technologies can make to maintaining people in their homes for longer.

The Board invited bids from the local offices on 13th November with a closing date of 8th December project.

Two bids were submitted by Lanarkshire and East Ayrshire. The Board discussed at length the details of each bid and the benefits of Digital Inclusion pilots.

Action: Robert to contact each office and ask for further financial information and discuss the direction and geographical scope of the project. Ideally it would be the intention of the Board to split the funding between the two bids. It was agreed that a final decision could be made by email, to allow for the funding to be distributed before 31st March 2024.

9. A.O.C.B

Ian asked if there could be an extension to the deadline for Electrical Safety First funding.

Action: Robert will speak to the coordinator but is sure that there is flexibility in the programme.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held in March 2024.

Action: Robert will circulate dates with the draft minutes.

11. Succession Planning

Robert left the meeting and the Paul McMahon joined to discuss a succession plan outline with Board members.