

**CARE AND REPAIR SCOTLAND
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 19th JUNE BY
ZOOM at 10.00am**

Present: Blair Allan, SFHA (Chair)
Gerry Power, The Alliance
Stewart Wilson, Region 1
Andy Douglas, Region 2
Angela Brunton, Region 3
Elizabeth Eadie, Region 4

Robert Thomson, National Director

1. Welcome and Apologies

Blair welcomed Board members to the first meeting held on-line via Zoom conference. He thanked them for attending and agreeing to reschedule the time. There were apologies from Gerry Begg ALACHO who was unable to make the rescheduled time of 10.00am.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Report from Office Managers on Impact of Covid-19

The Board discussed a detailed update from office managers. Each manager was asked to provide information under four headings: Funding, Service Delivery, Clients and Plans to Return to Work. There were no returns from Fife, Lochalsh & Skye, Sutherland, Ross-shire and Caithness.

Funding

The reports paint a positive picture. There was concern that because the lockdown began at in the last week of the financial year, some offices could have issues around funding for 2020. However, the report shows that this is not the case and funding is stable. There are also no notifications of redundancies. It was noted that despite the positive tone, a number of offices still do not have a written service level in place for either capital or revenue funding and rely on a 'gentleman's agreement' with Council staff. There have been mixed messages about the Job Retention Scheme. Some offices have applied and received funding but the most common experience has been that the Scheme does not apply to care and Repair because there is a funding allocation from Councils/NHS.

Service Delivery

Most offices report that they have to observe the risk assessment policy of their managing organisation. There are independent offices, like Argyll & Bute, that have been able to continue their service and provide additional support to older people such as delivering meals and supplies. Offices are developing plans to return to work as soon as Phase 3 of the Scottish Government plan is introduced. Many contractors have returned to work but are reporting a delay in obtaining supplies from builder's merchants.

Clients

Offices have reported that few clients have contracted corona virus and those who have made a full recovery. All offices have a backlog of cases and client interest in the service continues to be high. There have been a number of positive aspects, particularly in those areas where Care and Repair has retained visibility in the community and assisted NHS.

Plans to Return to Work

There are mixed views about the use of technology. One interesting idea is virtual joint architects/ OT/Care and Repair visits. The Board is clear that they do not want to see a move away from face to face client meetings but these could be augmented by OT video calls as a way of speeding up the process.

There was a general concern that Care and Repair managers have stopped speaking to each other. It was agreed that CRS would explore the use of technology to hold more virtual regional or office to office meetings. The use of webinars as a training tool is also something for future development. We could also arrange a tri-nation virtual meeting to share experience with England and Wales.

4. National Director's Report

CRS, Care and Repair England and Care and Repair Cymru Directors have made a joint bid for £200,000 funding to The Standard Life Foundation. The funding would be used to:

- Implement a tri-nation older person's housing inquiry
- Publish a comprehensive Inquiry Report with evidence-based recommendations and making the case for change
- Disseminate and widely promote the resulting key messages to decision makers at a national, regional and local level
- Create a broad-based Coalition to take forward the proposals for action, including specific networks for England, Scotland and Wales.

CRS has submitted evidence to the Westminster All Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry on Housing for those living with dementia.

Participation in a number of on-line events includes:

Health Improvement Scotland working group to discuss the likely impact of the crisis on older and disabled people and future organisational working practices.

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Working Group on Age and Ageing, with the focus on care homes.

About Dementia forum – housing working group meeting and also national forum meeting.
OSCR Charity Director's meeting.

NHS Scotland and Age Scotland, mostly involving coordinating information and agreeing responses to clients.

Extensive support was given to the staff of Dumfries and Galloway manager, as the managing organisation took the opportunity of a reduction in work flow to conduct an audit of Care and Repair.

The Board also considered the conference evaluation report and agreed to continue the discussion and make a decision about future conferences at the September meeting.

5. Financial Statement

The Board noted and approved the Financial Statement to 19th June.

6. AOCB

Gerry Power advised that Jean Freeman, Cabinet Secretary for Health, has convened a Mobilisation Recovery Group which is comprised mainly of Councils and public services. However, The Alliance is representing service users, so there may be an opportunity for an input from CRS. Any Alliance submission could include reference to Care and Repair and highlight how we can enable people to remain in their own homes and avoid admission to care homes. If the terms of reference can be released, Gerry will circulate them to Board members.

The internet connection became unstable and it was agreed to conclude the meeting.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Robert will suggest dates for a meeting in September.