

**CARE AND REPAIR SCOTLAND
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28th JULY
BY ZOOM CALL**

Present: Gerry Power, The Alliance (Chair)
Ian Graham, Region 1
Andy Douglas, Region 2
Angela Brunton, Region 3
Jamie Burgess, Region 4

Robert Thomson, National Director

1. Welcome and Apologies

Gerry Power welcomed Board members to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minute of 28th April 2023 meeting was approved without amendment.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Action: Rob will send details about the co-design group meetings and Robert will try and find clients who are in Marie Todd and Paul McLennan's constituencies who could contribute to the groups.

Information about co-design group meetings was sent to all offices.

Action: It was agreed that Robert should report back after the HSEU meeting and we will consider if it is worthwhile pursuing the suggestion that CRS develops a template for the offices.

Robert attended the meeting and report included in National Director's report.

Action: It was agreed that Robert should make a bid for £50,000 to the Digital Inclusion Fund and if successful, CRS will look to fund this work through an office or offices as we did with the Fire Alarm funding. We will not employ staff as we did with the Ayrshire Digital Inclusion Pilot

Application was submitted but was unsuccessful as explained in ND report.

Action: Robert will attend the housing network meeting and report on further developments.

Robert attended the event and report included in ND report.

5. National Director's Report

Cost Benefit Analysis Of Housing Support

As discussed at the last meeting Robert attended the event held by the Housing Support Evaluation Unit. Professor Gibb from Glasgow University and Dr Vikki McCall from Stirling University presented

their research findings. It was agreed that no organisation had been able to successfully demonstrate the economic benefits of their work. It was also noted that funders shift from wanting hard statistics to users lived experience and then often accept neither as a reason to increase funding.

It was agreed to accept findings of the report as the best way forward:

“We recommend that (1) effort is expended to highlight that Housing Support in its different forms can make significant positive impacts on peoples’ lives alongside important preventative public finance savings. (2) The sector should promote the more visible examples of Housing Support, drawing on key messages in this report. (3) Two further pieces of research should be supported and widely publicised. The first of these is a proper mapping and accounting of all Housing Support funding streams, scale and partners. Second, a research project is required to bottom out the costs and benefits, preventative savings and the social value of Housing Support.”

CRS has asked be involved in the two pieces of research that are proposed.

Ministerial Launch Age Scotland Report

Age Scotland launched its publication: Making Adaptations Work for Older People. The new Minister for Housing Paul McLennan MSP joined for the second half of the session and provided an update on the progress being made on Housing to 2040 and took a short Q&A session. During the session he was asked what commitment Scottish Government will make to addressing the funding issues faced by Care and Repair. He replied that in his previous work with East Lothian Council he was aware of the funding difficulties and committed to looking at how these could be resolved. His staff told me that he is open to a meeting with Gerry and myself and they will liaise with us about diary dates after the summer recess.

It should be noted that owners complained about the lack of consistency across the country with Care and Repair and also some said that they were unaware of a service in their area. However it was not possible to discuss this in detail at the meeting. Robert has asked Age Scotland if they can provide a regional breakdown of the comments.

Action: Gerry has written to Minister requesting a meeting.

Digital Inclusion Pioneers Fund

The fund is part of the Digital Inclusion in Mental Health and Housing Programme, provided by the Digital Health and Care Directorate, Scottish Government, and managed by SCVO.

Digital Pioneers Housing Fund offers funding of up to £50k to support existing impactful digital inclusion activity in a housing context. Funding will support organisations delivering housing services, with a particular focus on people with protected characteristics or experiencing multiple deprivations.

We applied for £50,000, as discussed at April’s meeting. The application was unsuccessful because they considered that our experience with digital inclusion was not current and therefore we would need a lead in time to either recruit staff or train existing staff and then further time to market our project. They decided that for the first tranche of funding that they wanted to use it to expand existing work and then use the experience to inform the distribution of the remaining funds later in the year.

Robert will continue a dialogue with the team and to link into the experience of the organisations that are awarded grant funding. The board discussed running a smaller scale project so that we can spend the funding that we have showing in the accounts.

Action: Gerry and Robert to meet to discuss how best to take forward a limited funding project.

The Intersectional Stigma of Place Based Ageing

The Intersectional Stigma of Place Based Ageing (ISPA) project is an ambitious 5 year participatory mixed method study that will explore and understand how the stigma attached to where people live can intersect with experiences of disability and ageing. We aim to develop interventions related to home and environmental modifications which encourage interventions for inclusive approaches that support people to age well within homes and communities across England, Scotland, and Wales.

The project members that include Care and Repair England, Wales and Scotland met for two days to meet the team administrators and researchers. We discussed what we will deliver on the ISPA Project, including:

- Secondary datasets and patterns around age, place and disability
- Lived experiences and the nuance around stigma
- Building a Community Peer Researcher network
- Putting learning into action – the Inclusive Living Toolkit
- Building our Inclusive Living Alliance and monitoring impact
- How to plan for Healthy Physical and Cognitive Ageing

Scottish Government Guidance – Equipment and Adaptations

CRS has been a member of the Scottish Government working group on adaptations for a number of years. It was the intention that new guidance would be published prior to Covid. The Guidance is now live and Robert attended the first meeting with the Local Authorities Adaptations Network to discuss the implications for us. Following that meeting, the Council officers requested a further meeting with the writer of the guidance. A Zoom meeting was held in June and each Council was represented. It was then suggested that it would be helpful if a face to face meeting could be organised so that the implications of the guidance could be discussed further. The adaptations network coordinator and Robert have been working on the possibility of arranging a jointly sponsored event in mid-September. It is hoped that there will be sufficient space in the venue to invite each Council and Care and Repair service to attend.

Action: Robert to continue discussions with SHN about a live event.

SG Accessible Housing and Independent Living Group

The Group met for the first time in June and discussed the terms of reference and how progress will be monitored. It was agreed that it would be:

- Useful to have an action plan and report on progress yearly
- Helpful to set out what the specific actions from Ht2040 are in relation to Accessible Housing and Independent Living
- Might want to have smaller working groups to work on specific areas
- Important to have clarity on what we will focus on, visibility, roles and responsibility
- Highlight links with other sections of Scottish Government in the action plan
- HIS have office space if it would be useful to host a workshop
- Important to feed into the Ht2040 Strategic Board
- Important to include people's lived experiences
- Useful to involve other SG officials such as those working on the National Care Service.

The Scottish Government has a live consultation on accessible housing:

<https://consult.gov.scot/housing-and-social-justice/accessiblehousingconsultation/>

4 Nations Accident Prevention Meeting

After quite a slow start, ironing out administrative issues, the Group is starting to discuss issues that are of interest to Care and Repair and our clients. The meeting focused on The 'Managing Falls

and Fractures in Care Homes for Older People' good practice resource and how this may apply to other organisations such as ROSPA or Care and Repair

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/low-graphics/9-professional/2737-falls-and-fractures>

CPG on Accident Prevention and Safety

The Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety held a face to face meeting for the first time since lockdown in 2020. There were a number of themes for discussion, including water safety during the holiday season but the most relevant to Care and Repair was child safety in the home. The work of the Child Accident Prevention Trust was featured:

https://capt.org.uk/resource-centre/?utm_source=professional&utm_campaign=CSW2023

We discussed the previous partnership CRS had with ROSPA to deliver child safety measures in the home and we will follow this up, although funding still seems to be an issue.

Scottish Quality Mark

Glasgow has applied for accreditation for the first time. Ft William and Inverness have applied to renew their accreditation.

Home Safety Scotland

CRS has joined Home Safety Scotland following a discussion between one of their staff and Jamie.

Charles Murphy Retirement

Charles Murphy is the Manager at East Ayrshire Care and Repair but was also a long serving member of the CRS Board. He is retiring at the end of August. Charles has been an outstanding supporter of Care and Repair and we thank him for his support and wish him a long and happy retirement.

6. Financial Statement

The Board noted and approved the Financial Statement.

7. A.O.C.B.

There were no other items of business.

8. Date And Time Of Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Friday 29th September but this was later amended by email to Friday 27th October.