

**CARE AND REPAIR SCOTLAND
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER 2020
BY ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL**

Present: Gerry Power, The Alliance (Chair)
Gerry Begg, ALACHO
Stewart Wilson, Region 1
Angela Brunton, Region 3
Elizabeth Eadie, 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 2nd October 2020 meeting was approved without amendment.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Gerry circulated the Glasgow survey to the ALLIANCE network, and there was a good response.

Several virtual meetings were held with EST. Robert held a face to face meeting with officers from Argyll & Bute, Glasgow and Perthshire. The current position is, it has been agreed by all parties that Trevor should be re-employed by Caledonia HA to the Perthshire post.

Gerry and Robert met with ALLIANCE staff to discuss the logistics of holding a virtual conference. To be discussed further Agenda Item 7.

Accounts were signed by Gerry and Elizabeth and returned to OSCR and Companies House. OSCR now displaying on the website.

Regional voting has taken place, and the current regional reps, Elizabeth Eadie, Angela Brunton, Andy Douglas and Stewart Wilson have been re-elected. Gerry and Robert met to discuss Board membership. To be discussed further under Agenda Item 8.

Dentons will notify us of any relevant updates to the pension fund debt legislation

5. National Director's Report

The Board approved the report.

Review of Glasgow Care and Repair

The review has reached a draft recommendations report stage. The report should be finalised before Christmas. The main recommendations will be:

- Joint funding from HSCP and Glasgow City Council to continue and for funders to recognise that they have been giving project-level funding over many years and it will need to increase.
- There has been a lack of strategic direction from the housing association, and this will be provided by a new committee that will report to the HSCP strategy group.
- The current home from hospital service will be expanded and integrated with health and social work objectives. Small repairs will be chargeable in future, and more use will be made of volunteers for unskilled jobs, to free up small repairs officer's time.
- A review of publicity material and advertising
- A new reporting framework will help identify the benefits of the service to Council members and other interested groups.
- The service will work towards attaining the Care and Repair Scotland Quality Mark

Equity Loan Scheme

Following online joint meetings between CRS, EST and Caledonia Housing Association, and a face to face meeting between CRS and the officers, it has been agreed that the best way to resolve the situation in Perthshire is to re-appoint the former officer. Caledonia Housing Association has admitted that it has made mistakes and are willing to negotiate with the officer with a view to him recommencing his role in mid-December. There is a considerable backlog, and this will need to be prioritised before new cases.

EST has advised that the Scottish Government review of the scheme will recommence and it has issued a procurement notice for legal services for 20/21 and 21/22.

Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland

Scottish Government has commissioned Derek Feeley, former Director General of NHS Scotland, to conduct a review of adult social care. He met with housing representatives, including CRS to discuss our experiences and priorities and housing providers. During the discussion CRS raised issues around procurement, recognising that homeownership is the majority tenure in Scotland, the postal code lottery of services, the need for a private strategy and the need for a properly funded and responsive adaptation service.

National Housing Options Toolkit

Working with Scottish Government on toolkit that will provide national housing options information in one online space. Care and Repair will feature and each office will be signposted.

Age Home and Communities Review Group

The Group has not met since December 2019 but has taken forward work in sub-groups. I am involved with the dementia sub group and have recently been asked to support the veterans sub group.

Edinburgh Care and Repair Board Strategic Away Day

Facilitated discussion at the strategy day. We discussed past performance, strategic partnerships, funding opportunities, gaps in service provision, new services that could be offered and Board members training.

Ross-shire Care and Repair

Currently assisting them with their renewal of the Quality Mark and also looking for funding for the Veterans Handyman Scheme.

Scottish Housing Network

Spoke to 45 delegates at the SHN adaptations meeting and gave an update on Care and Repair services and how the coronavirus response has impacted us.

Upcoming meetings in December

SFHA Tec Coordinator to discuss technology in older people's homes.

Foundations to discuss adaptations for children.

Dell on using technology for meetings.

About Dementia Housing Sub Group.

Housing Learning and Improvement Network three day conference.

6. Financial Statement

The Board noted and approved the Financial Statement. Scottish Government has asked if the allocated funding can be spent by March 21. Agreed that we will review the position in February. Amazon has offered to include CRS in their charity scheme. Board members reported that their offices' experience is that funding is insignificant. Savills no longer manage 135 Buchanan Street. The lease terms are set for five years, so there should be no increase in costs.

7. Annual Conference

Gerry and Robert met with The Alliance team members who provided technical support to their week-long digital conference. The discussion was helpful in providing an overview of what will need to be in place if we take forward a conference in March. However, the team are not willing to facilitate the event. The Board discussed the content of the conference and it was agreed that it should be a mix of policy and practice, with the ability to join in sessions on the day but have the facility to watch recordings of other sessions later. Some suggested sessions were, experiences of Care and Repair in other countries, like Canada, and CDM regulations.

Action: Gerry will speak with The Alliance Director to revisit the possibility of providing technical support. If they are unwilling, Robert will speak to CRS IT support and other organisations to find a technical support team. Robert will consult with offices about practice subjects and email potential policy speakers in December. Robert and Gerry will discuss progress w/c 10th January.

8. Board Membership

Gerry advised that the Articles do not require us to replace Blair with a representative from SFHA. Following discussion with Robert and the Scottish Government it is suggested, as an organisation that supports older and disabled people, we should seek to strengthen the Board with representatives from those groups. The Board agreed that due to past experiences with advertising, we should develop a person spec and approach representative organisations to find people that met the specification. EVH has expressed a view that an eight-person Board membership is quite acceptable for an organisation of CRS size.

Action: Robert will liaise with EVH about the person specification.

10. A.O.C.B

There were no other items of business.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the Board meeting prior to the March digital conference. The next meeting will be held on Zoom on Friday 26th February 2021