

Minutes for Central Scotland Regional Network 4
Held on 11th November 2021
On Line by Zoom
at 11 am



Present:

Lindsay Anderson	LA	Link Housing Association	
Shona Gorman	SG	Link TSP	
Geoff Morgan	GM	BACCRA	
June Anderson BEM	JuA	Clackmannanshire T&R Fed.	
Jeanette Arneil	JeA	Clydesdale HS Tenants & Res.	
Georgia McCambley	GMc	West Dunbartonshire	
Frances McGonagle	FMc	West Dunbartonshire	

In Attendance:

Susan McLellan	SMc	Scottish Government	
Jemma Stewart	JS	Scottish Government	

Apologies:

Peter Winnie	Coatbridge Fed. Of Tenants & Residents	
Hugh McClung MBE	Stirling Tenants Assembly	
Philomena McClung	Stirling Tenants Assembly	
John Duffy	Shotts TARA	
Susan Robertson	Clackmannanshire T&F Fed.	

Item		Action
1	With Lindsay Anderson having tendered her resignation as Vice-Chair, and in the absence of the Chair, the Meeting was chaired by Susan McLellan of the Scottish Government.	

2	<p><u>Minutes and Matters arising from previous Meeting on 15th July 2021</u></p> <p>JuA asked for the Minute of 15th July to be corrected. She explained that under the AOCB Dementia and Age Scotland was mentioned, and this should have been The National Care Service for Scotland.</p> <p>There being no other corrections, the Minutes were approved by JuA, and seconded by FMc</p>	
3	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>No Correspondence has been received</p>	
4	<p><u>Work Plan/Communication Strategy</u></p> <p>There are no new developments to report</p>	
5	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>There is no Report as yet, since GM the new Treasurer is still in the process of getting the banking information transferred to him.</p> <p>.JuA is still officially recorded as a signee, along with HcC, and SG. This was acceptable by JuA, and members.</p>	
6	<p><u>Working Group Updates</u></p> <p>SG reported she was having PC issues and members may not received the Reports of Meetings as agreed. SMc agreed to distribute any Reports that she had received.</p> <p><u>SHR Update</u></p> <p>The Report by JuA will be circulated by SMc, as will the Rent Focus report.</p> <p><u>Chairs and Secretaries</u></p>	

The Minutes of the last Chairs and Secretaries has not yet been issued, but SG has distributed to members a short Summary of the Meeting. An aspect discussed was the HRA issue which has been ongoing for some time. It had been agreed that progress was very slow, and there was a feeling it should, and could be much quicker. HcC has asked that members should be aware that the new Cabinet Secretary has been made aware of the ongoing issue of HRA funding and spending,

SMc advised members that the matter had now come back to Scottish Government staff, and that discussions and meetings would take place as soon as was feasible. SMc said she would report back to members as soon as she was able.

SG reported that all the issues of current concern were raised and discussed at the C&S's Meeting, and that as part of the feedback on recent Training, the view expressed that RN office bearers should have a more unified approach to their roles should be passed to the Communications sub group, to make any appropriate progress in this area.

Concern was expressed about what the Cabinet Secretary was doing about the HRA issue – was it being taken back to COSLA? SMc confirmed that the Cabinet Secretary had been in touch with COSLA, and now the matter was back with Government Staff. There remains the problem of whether the 1987 Act takes precedence over the Guidance of 2014.

Rent Focus Group

As mentioned previously the update for this sub group will be circulated and there is now a date for members to meet with Scottish Government staff on November 18th. This meeting will focus on the work being done by Government staff to define Affordability

RN Comms Group Update

LA gave an update, a written report of which has been sent to SG. The current Work Plan needs updating, and there were very definite variations in work practices, in particular by Secretaries, highlighted during the recent RN training. It was agreed that a “good practice” guide would be compiled which would benefit both current and future Secretaries. It was agreed that Region 1's methods would form the basis for this guide.

The Newsletter is finished, and the Tri-fold Leaflet is at the designers.

Unfortunately there is an administrative problem which prevents the Subscription Service getting up and running. This lies with Scottish Government Staff and the RN Comms group can do nothing til it is resolved.

7	<p><u>Update from Ministerial Meeting</u></p> <p>The official Report from this meeting has been circulated to members.</p>	
8	<p><u>Feedback from RN Training</u></p> <p>An evaluation form being distributed to members to get feedback and comments on the Training.</p> <p>GM enquired about Treasurer Training, but was told this was normally done on a personal basis, depending on the individual needs. Should there be a “good practice” guide? Or should it be left with each Treasurer to decide with TP team how to fulfil the role. Should each RN function separately? Does that affect how RN’s work on a National basis? LA felt there needed to be a basic standard, just like a code of practice to which each RN would subscribe. SMC said the TP team would work with whatever members agreed, and that it was beneficial that the RN Comms group asked these questions and reviewed working methods.</p>	
9	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>JuA brought up the National Care Service consultation. She felt that this Consultation had not been well advertised and had not featured the role of Housing in supporting people and delivering preventative services. Apparently Health professionals were unaware of this Consultation, and SFHA have expressed disappointment that the proposals fail to recognise the contribution of Housing, and their delivery of services supporting people to remain independent and in their homes. Again the review of Adult Social Care, didn’t pay much attention to the role of Housing, in preventing homelessness, and as a community anchor. JuA has great concern that the proposals mentioned will have a very detrimental affect in the future.</p> <p>LA wished members to know the reason that had caused her to tender her resignation. Personal, derogatory comments made by both HMc and PMc at one of the RN Training sessions, when they accidentally left their mics open, had she said made it impossible for her to continue in the role of Vice-Chair. Indeed she was unsure of her continuing RN membership. JeA who was at the Meeting, said she was sorry that she had not heard the remarks as she must have left the room at that point.(it was during a comfort break) Gm commented that this required minuting, and that a formal complaint needed to be lodged. This matter clearly demonstrates a serious breach of the code of conduct. SMC explained that a Meeting had been arranged with HcC, PMc, LA and SG for this week, but the illness of both HMc and PMc had meant this Meeting required to be postponed. She hoped LA would be prepared to wait until this Meeting took place, before taking a decision on her membership of the RN. JuA noted that respect was absolutely essential at all times FMc said she felt upset to hear that an incident of this nature at taken place, it made her</p>	

	<p>wonder if she wanted to be involved. That everyone's views and opinions were listened to, and respected was also necessary.</p> <p>LA has agreed to postpone making a decision on her membership of the RN until there has been a meeting with the parties involved and Government Staff.</p> <p>The Meeting was concluded.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was recorded to SMc for chairing the meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting will be on January 20th 2022</p>	

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