

Social housing fire safety group 20th April 2016
Media Resource Centre Llandrindod Wells

Attendance

	Organisation	Name	Jobtitle
1.	Aelwyd HA	Bill Meiklejohn	Scheme Liaison Officer
2.	Bron Afon Community Housing	Chris Weeks	Fire and Electric Manager
3.	Capital-People Consultants Ltd	Huw Williams	Fire Safety Consultant
4.	Cardiff Community Housing Association	Allan Brinkley	Contracts Manager
5.	Cardiff County Council	Kerry Powell	Compliance Officer
6.	Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Lowri Ann James	Head of Health, Safety, Quality and Environment
7.	Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Mike Roberts	Senior HSQE Co-ordinator
8.	City & County of Swansea	Darren Whetton	Risk Management Surveyor
9.	Coastal Housing Group	Alan Parker	Building Inspector
10.	Coastal Housing Group	Kevin David	Clerk of Works
11.	CREW Regeneration Wales	Tim Blanch	Director
12.	CT Cantref	Paul Watson	Property Services Assistant
13.	CT Cantref	Richard Lewis	Property Services Officer
14.	Family HA (Wales) Ltd	Stephen Mainwaring	Senior Surveyor
15.	First Choice HA	Andrew Moucher	Technical Services Manager
16.	Linc-Cymru Housing Association	Adrian Brain	Health and Safety Manager
17.	Melin Homes	Ian Hall	Head of Health & Safety
18.	Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service	David Hancock	Group Manager - Head of Business Fire Safety
19.	Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Richard Davies	Station Manager (Swansea Command)



20.	Mid Wales HA Ltd	Jonathon Breeze	Contracts Officer
21.	North Wales Fire & Rescue Service	Paul Jenkinson	
22.	Pembrokeshire Housing	John Davies	Land and Buildings Officer
23.	Pembrokeshire Housing	Seamus Doyle	Health and Safety Manager
24.	Pennaf Housing Group Ltd	Keith Morris	Fire Safety Coordinator
25.	Pobl Group	Emma Pearson	Health & Safety Manager
26.	Powys County Council	Alan Corbett	Project Officer
27.	Powys County Council	Rebecca Mills	Project Officer
28.	Powys County Council	Roger Francis	Planned Maintenance Team Leader
29.	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Adrian Moyse	SM Business Fire Safety
30.	Shared Regulatory Services	Mike Bright	Environmental Health Officer – Neighbourhood Services
31.	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Mathew Bradford	Business Fire Safety Manager
32.	Taff HA Ltd	Andy Petersen	Fire Safety Consultant
33.	Taff HA Ltd	Jonathan Jones	Building Surveyor
34.	Taff HA Ltd	Phil Dunn	Head of Property & Development
35.	Taff HA Ltd	Phil Street	Building Surveyor
36.	Tai Ceredigion Cyf	John Jones	Fire, Health & Safety Advisor
37.	Tai Ceredigion Cyf	Wayne Williams	Technical Coordinator
38.	Valleys to Coast Housing Ltd	Sue Jones	Health & Safety Business Partner
39.	Wales & West Housing	Johanna Burns	Health & Safety Officer
40.	Wales & West Housing	Sarah Roberts	Health and Safety Manager

Notes of the meeting

1. **Introductory session**

- The Chair updated the group on the future of the fire safety group. This would mean 2 meetings a year rather than three, with a possible conference in addition. Booking to be free and via Eventbrite. It was intended that the meetings would be held at members offices, possibly alternating North and South. On this day there were 4 delegates from North Wales, 4 from Mid Wales and 35 from South Wales.
- The discussion points from the group will now be on Yammer, where there will be a dedicated Fire Group. Only members of C.H.C will be able to join. The changes will happen from May.
- Members are also welcome to join the National Social Housing Fire Safety Group, which has a lot of information posted on it.

2. **Supported Housing**

Andrew Moucher(First Choice) and Mike Bright (E,H,O) led a discussion on the differing regulations applying to supported living and care homes, highlighting the confusion among both fire officers and landlords on what regulations applied where. Mike had produced a flow chart to try to establish the difference between the two types. Key issues were tenancy agreements or not, place of work or not, and who does the fire risk assessments, the landlord or the care provider.

3. **Update from Paul Jenkinson on current fire risks**

There was a discussion about appliance risks in the light of recent fires. Advice was not to use tumble dryers at night or when away from the house.

There was a discussion about hoarding and the risks involved, together with the importance of notifying the fire service where landlords were aware of tenants at high risk.

4. **Primary Fire Authority**

The Chair introduced the concept to the group

- Formal agreement with one fire authority under a statutory scheme
- Assured advice means that if landlords follow the advice they are covered
- Not about loosening regulation but doing it better.
- Consistency across wales.
- Members free to join or to stay as they are.

There was general agreement that this would be a good idea. There is still some uncertainty about the cost to members, but agreement that the potential savings are large.

The group then broke into four groups to discuss the main topics that could be tackled via a primary authority.

Issues that required work

- Supported housing/care/extra care/sheltered housing. Clarity of regulation between the different types of housing
- Evacuation or staying put in the case of fire.
- Alarm testing procedures
- Responsibility for a frequency of fire risk assessments.
- Vulnerable people living in general needs housing.
- R.S.L's being made responsible for fire risks to their tenants in a way that does not apply to owner occupiers. (domiciliary care)
- Impact of sprinklers on design, compartmentation etc.

Challenges for establishing Primary Authority

- Getting buy in from r.s.l chief executives and fire services
- Finding right skills set and experience in the fire authority
- Setting up working group to drive through the process

Action Points

- Circulate notes and access to the new Yammer feed for group. (C.H.C)
- Seek expressions of interest for joining primary fire authority. (SR/TB)
- Set up small working group to drive the process(SR/TB)
- Seek support from CHC Executive and RSL C\E's