



NOTES

Regulation & Governance SDG Meeting

Date: 19th September 2019

Venue: Cartrefi Conwy

In attendance

Organisation	Name	Job title
1. Aelwyd	Gareth Cole	Governance Support
2. Cadwyn HA	Leynie Pearn	PA to Chief Executive
3. Cardiff Community Housing Association	Daniel Lewis	Head of Governance
4. Cartrefi Conwy	Sandra Lee	Company Secretary
5. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Gwenno Littlewood	Governance & Assurance Officer
6. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Aled Davies	Head of Governance
7. Coastal Housing Group	Joanne Smith	Regulation and Governance Manager
8. Community Housing Cymru	Julia Sorribes	Member Services Assistant
9. Community Housing Cymru	Clarissa Corbisiero	Director of Policy & External Affairs
10. Community Housing Cymru	Sarah Scotcher	Policy & External Affairs Project Officer
11. Community Housing Cymru	Angharad Young	Business Development Manager
12. First Choice HA	Donna Lloyd-Williams	Director of Corporate Services & Housing



13. Grwp Cynefin	Helen Jones	Governance & Compliance Manager
14. Linc-Cymru	Karen Jeffreys	Community Engagement Manager
15. North Wales Housing	Wendy Moore	Governance Manager/PA
16. United Welsh	Nia Roblin	Head of Governance & Compliance
17. Welsh Government	Huw Maguire	Head of Regulation - Business

Online attendance

Ateb group Ltd	Ceri Barnett	Company Solicitor
Bro Myrddin	Rhodri Jones	Director of Corporate Resources
Cardiff Community Housing Association	Samantha Williams	Governance & Executive Support Officer
Community Housing Cymru	Rhea Stevens	Head of Policy & External Affairs
Cynon Taf Community Housing Group	Janet Jones	Performance & Improvement Manager
Family Housing Association	Farid Ali	Governance & Business Improvement Manager
Linc Cymru	Kevin Howell	Head of Housing
Merthyr Valleys Homes	Allison Soroko	Head of Engagement & Ownership
Merthyr Valleys Homes	Claire Payne	Governance Officer
Newport City Homes	Jo Fairley	Head of Governance & Compliance
Pobl Group	Paula Williams	Head of Assurance
Rhondda HA	Hannah Davies	PA to Chief Executive
Taff housing Association	Blodwen Lewis	Governance and Assurance Manager



Tai Calon	Jayne Lewis	Governance Officer
Tai Calon	Marcia Sinfield	Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Resources
Tai Tarian	Angela Priestley	Head of Corporate Services
Tai Tarian	Carolyn Heaven	Corporate Governance Officer
Wales & West HA	Claire McDougall	Governance Manager

1. Review and planning

Dan Lewis updated the group on the key areas of the SDG's work plan. Dan explained that this workplan was based on the key issues raised by group members during the workshop at the last meeting and key areas for CHC based on wider feedback from housing associations.

Areas for potential joint activity with other SDGs were highlighted in addition to opportunities to participate on cross cutting issues. One such issue was affordability which was on the agenda for discussion today.

Actions:

The workplan to be reviewed regularly and to form the basis for forthcoming agendas for this SDG in 2019/20. CHC and Chair/Vice Chair of SDG.

2. Affordability and local rent policies

Clarissa Corbisiero, CHC, provided an update on the work that has been underway on rent and affordability following the publication of the Affordable Housing Review (slides available). Clarissa highlighted a role for this SDG to ensure that compliance and policy issues were properly reflected in the approach to local rent setting and any regulatory implications arising from the Affordable Housing Review.

Actions:

CHC to engage with the SDG on compliance issues as they emerge.

3. Regulatory Update

Huw Maguire, Welsh Government, provided an update on key issues from the regulatory team. This included updates on the following issues:



- **Rent setting policy:** the regulator is keen to see clear evidence of Board engagement in setting a rent policy based on clear and objective data. The role of the Board in balancing business plan expectations with affordability was highlighted. This is in line with the approach to local rent setting set out by CHC. The Affordable Housing Review also highlighted the need to include an annual assessment of cost efficiencies.
- **Annual statement of learning:** Welsh Government plan to publish an annual statement of learning from their regulatory activities. This statement would capture all types of learning from regulatory activity and would be in addition to learning from intervention and complex cases.
- **Domain Regulation** – Welsh Government are undertaking a review of tenant services regulation.
- **Review of Regulatory Framework** – currently planned for 2020. The SDG will be consulted and have the opportunity to feed into the process.
- **Governance Assessment Tool** – Welsh Government will shortly be commission consultants to support the development of a governance assessment tool. An important part of the consultants work will be to engage with housing associations.
- **Schedule 1** – A working group is being established to consider the current schedule 1 arrangements. Changes are likely to be restricted to the determination and guidance as there is limited legislative time available.

Actions:

- CHC to reflect the discussion and link to cost efficiency statement in forthcoming roadshows on value for money with housing associations.
- Initial findings from the Schedule 1 working group to be fed back to the SDG for comment and input.

4. Information sharing and learning: Data Integrity and WHQS

Sarah Scotcher provided an overview of progress towards WHQS compliance requirements. Dan Lewis provided an overview of the work undertaken by Melin Homes to ensure data integrity and assurance.

Workshop session focusing on what actions associations are taking to ensure compliance and to understand the strengths and limitations of their data and assurance.



5. CHC Governance offer

Angharad Young provided an update on the current governance offer from CHC and proposals to enhance this in the future. Key feedback included:

- Support for the recruitment of board members. This might include the future development of the Housing Jobs Wales website
- Feedback on the CHC governance training package including amending the timing of some sessions to better fit with AGMs and new board members and how the training is promoted. Potential interest in a North Wales training programme agreed with all HAs involved.
- CHC scoped the room for interest in Company Secretary training following several enquiries from members over the last couple of months. It was mentioned that while ICSA provides good foundations, it does not go into the realm of Regulation or Housing Associations, so an Advanced from Central Consultancy. It was noted that not everyone needs company secretary training at the same level, so CHC suggested the possibility of a tiered proposition. CHC will be exploring this proposition.
- Governance Conference – CHC asked attendees what they would like to see in the 2020 Governance Conference. There seemed to be an agreement that more sessions addressed at governance practitioners are needed. Topics suggested included unitary boards and payment to board members.

Next meeting

Tuesday 14th January 2020 - Newport City Homes