

MINUTES OF CENTRAL HOUSING COMMUNITY NETWORK MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2010 AT 11.00 A.M.

IN N.I.H.E. HEADQUARTERS, BELFAST

PRESENT: B. Holmes S.C.N.I.
 C. McDaid S.C.N.I.
 M. Watt S.C.N.I.
 L. Sproule N.I.H.E.
 G. Flynn N.I.H.E.
 M. Kelly West
 H. Phillips South East
 G. Blevins South
 C. Wylie South
 J. Kelly Belfast
 A. McAvoy Belfast
 P. McQuillan North East
 L. Mahaffy South East

APOLOGIES: J. Hunter North East
 L. Watson West
 S. McWilliams West
 B. McNally South East
 J. Morgan Belfast
 A. Miller North East
 A. Hanlon South
 H. Walker N.I.H.E.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:
 T. Steed N.I.H.E.
 F. McConaghie N.I.H.E.

MINUTES	ACTION
1.0	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
1.1	Agreed as an accurate record.
2.0	MATTERS ARISING
2.1	(2.1) Community Check L. Sproule forwarded a copy of the paper to L. Watson.
2.2	(2.2) Local Area Priorities (L.A.P.s) Central H.C.N. members enquired how the L.A.P.s will be rolled out in the future and how District H.C.N. members will be involved in the process. L. Sproule agreed to provide feedback to the next meeting.

L. Sproule



MINUTES	ACTION
2.3 (2.4) Neighbourhood Management Course L. Mahaffy provided update on the course and confirmed that the next 2 modules are due for completion next month.	S. McWilliams L. Mahaffy
2.4 (2.5) Community and Educational Partnership Awards L. Mahaffy reported that she will be unable to attend these Awards, however, A. McAvoy agreed to attend on behalf of Central H.C.N.	A. McAvoy
2.5 (2.7) Rural Residents Forum H. Phillips confirmed that the next meeting will be 6 th December, 2010.	H. Phillips P. McQuillan
2.6 (2.9) Stock Transfer to Housing Associations G. Flynn referred members to the Executive Briefing Note from the N.I.H.E. Board meeting of 29 th September, 2010 in which the Board approved a limited stock transfer policy in which vacant unimproved stock in regeneration areas can be transferred to H.A.s in order for the required works to be carried out. Central H.C.N. members also asked to be kept updated in respect of any future H.A. name changes or amalgamations.	S.C.N.I. N.I.H.E.
2.7 (2.10) Firmus Gas Meters Having received feedback in relation to Phoenix Gas policy, Central H.C.N. members also requested feedback in regard to Firmus Gas. L. Sproule agreed to check and provide feedback to next meeting.	L. Sproule
2.8 (2.11) H.C.N. Research It was reported that quite a number of the D.H.C.N.s had completed their Survey Forms, however, there were still some D.H.C.N. meetings to be held. It is hoped that the Research Dept. will be in a position to provide feedback to Central H.C.N. by December 2010.	N.I.H.E.
2.9 (2.13) Long Term Void Properties in Omagh It was noted by G. Flynn that a Board Paper is scheduled for the October Board Meeting to finalise resolution on this issue.	N.I.H.E.
2.10 (2.14) Fire Safety in Community Lettings It was noted that G. Duffy had provided an update at all Area H.C.N. meetings in relation to this topic.	



MINUTES	ACTION
2.15 (4.1) Gas Boiler Leaflet Central H.C.N. members asked if this leaflet had been circulated to D.O.s yet. L. Sproule agreed to follow up.	L. Sproule
2.16 (5.2) Estate Inspection Toolkit L. Sproule reported that, having taken on board the comments from H.C.N. members, he had circulated the Estate Inspection Toolkit to all Area and District Managers for use.	D.H.C.N.s
2.17 (6.1) Sustaining Tenancies It was noted that R. Mahaffy is not in a position to provide a presentation on his work on this topic, however, it was agreed to invite him to a subsequent C.H.C.N. meeting when there is more to present.	N.I.H.E.
3.0 PRESENTATION - Implementing The Equality Scheme & Developing Equality Policies	
3.1 T. Steed and F. McConaghy presented a very interesting and informative presentation on an overview of the Housing Executive's policy and strategy in regard to ensuring Equality across all Housing Executive workings. The presentation looked at the following headings through the use of both Powerpoint and DVD:	
3.1.1 Equality at the Heart of the Executive	
3.1.2 Equality Scheme - Framework for Mainstreaming Equality	
3.1.3 The Equality Agenda – Promoting Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations	
3.1.4 Equality Scheme - Framework for Mainstreaming Equality	
3.1.5 Specific Policies to Promote Equality – e.g. Legal and other Directives, Government Policy Initiatives, use of H.C.N. and Consultative Forum on Equality.	
3.2 Central H.C.N. members noted that it was important for N.I.H.E. members of staff to receive appropriate training on Equality and that it was also relevant that victims should be treated in equal terms as that bestowed on perpetrators. This was acknowledged by T. Steed.	
3.3 Copies of the Housing Executive's 10 th Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission were circulated to Central H.C.N. members.	



4.0 AREA H.C.N. UPDATES

It was noted that all Area H.C.N. meetings had received presentations from their respective Area Accounts/H.B. C.S.U.s as well as the presentation providing an update in relation to the new Fire Safety regulations.

4.1 Belfast Area H.C.N. – J. Kelly raised the concerns on behalf of Belfast H.C.N. in relation to the lack of co-ordination that seems to exist when dealing with ‘Care in The Community’ clients and, in particular, the lack of support from Belfast Health & Social Care Trust.

4.1.1 G. Flynn stated, on behalf of N.I.H.E., that their hands were very much tied and that there were a range of protocols in place in working with those vulnerable tenants who require a package of care. It was also suggested that community reps should write to C. Donaghy – new Chief Executive of the Trust outlining their concerns.

Belfast H.C.N.

4.2 North East Area H.C.N. – P. McQuillan reported that the members were shocked to learn about the level of Rent Arrears reported through the C.S.U. presentation.

4.2.1 In response, G. Flynn raised similar concerns and highlighted that the Housing Executive were looking for assistance from the H.C.N. in getting the message across to tenants that paying their rent should be a priority. Among some suggestions made included: that N.I.H.E. could produce a standard article that could be included in Community Group newsletters; surgeries be held locally to promote the uptake of H.B.; and a review of H.B. and Arrears letters take place once again. G. Flynn agreed to consider these and other ideas and feedback to the next meeting.

G. Flynn

4.2.2 P. McQuillan reported that the N. East Area H.C.N. members were grateful that F. O’Connor had attended this Area meeting but were disappointed that he will not be able to attend again until after the new financial year.

4.3 South East Area H.C.N. – H. Phillips spoke about some concerns relating to variations in service delivery standards across N. Ireland i.e. relating to Local Offers. However, it was clarified that this would not be the case and that H.C.N. members should await the roll out of the pilots.

4.4 South Area H.C.N. – C. Wylie confirmed that the presentations on the Local Offers along with Fire Safety and C.S.U. – Accounts/H.B. had been very well received.



MINUTES	ACTION
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4.5 West Area H.C.N. – Apart from the standard presentations presented to all Area H.C.N.s, M. Kelly referred to useful update by the Acting Area Manager, A. McAllister, regarding Programme and Scheme details.

5.0 LOCAL OFFERS UPDATE

5.1 L. Sproule provided an update in relation to the presentations he presented at the 5 Area H.C.N. meetings, i.e. the service areas to be piloted in the 5 Areas:

- West – Estate Inspections
- South – Accounts/H.B.
- N. East – Re-lets
- S. East – Common Standards (N.I.H.E./Has)
- Belfast – To Be Agreed

5.2 L. Sproule and B. Holmes also confirmed that further thought on the Action Plan for each pilot will be agreed in the coming weeks before some Awareness Training is provided to those Districts and D.H.C.N.s involved in the pilots.

N.I.H.E.

6.0 MEMBERS ISSUES

6.1 Community Conference 2010 – Members congratulated S.C.N.I. and N.I.H.E. on, what many felt, was the best Community Conference held so far, particularly given the input and role played by all those who presented or who were interviewed. Complimentary remarks were also made in respect of the Annual Report and Best Practice sharing booklet.

6.1.1 L. Sproule informed the meeting that, from his brief look through the Evaluation Sheets, the positive sentiments expressed were repeated by delegates present. L. Sproule agreed to bring a full analysis to the next meeting.

L. Sproule

6.2 Community Conference 2011 – Reference was made to the Chairman’s remarks in relation to taking into consideration the N.I. Housing Executive’s 40th Anniversary Year next year. Whilst acknowledging that the 40th Anniversary should be included as part of the Community Conference it was felt by Central Members that the Conference should still remain a ‘Community’ Conference. It was agreed that S.C.N.I. and N.I.H.E. liaise and present some ideas on way forward at the next meeting.

S.C.N.I.
N.I.H.E.



MINUTES	ACTION
7.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
7.1 Disability Forum – L. Sproule asked for a nomination from Central H.C.N. to attend a preliminary meeting regarding the potential reformation of the Disability Forum. Meeting to be held on 5 th November. C. Wylie agreed to represent Central H.C.N. and provide feedback to the next meeting.	C. Wylie
7.2 November Central H.C.N. Meeting – B. Holmes confirmed that H. Walker had asked that Training Needs Analysis of H.C.N. be included on Agenda for the next Central H.C.N. meeting.	S.C.N.I. N.I.H.E.
7.3 Central H.C.N. 2011 Dates – A copy of the dates for the Central and Area H.C.N. meetings for 2011 were circulated to all members.	
7.4 ‘A Foot In The Door’ – L. Sproule distributed a copy of this information leaflet aimed at young people in particular. All present felt it was very well put together and L. Sproule was asked to extend Central H.C.N.’s compliments paid to S. Anderson, the author.	L. Sproule
8.0 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING	
8.1 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th November 2010 at 11.00 a.m. in S.C.N.I. Headquarters, Ballymena.	



APPENDIX ATTACHED

- Presentation Slides - Implementing The Equality Scheme & Developing Equality Policies

