

Orkney Residents' Panel

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2pm Via Zoom

Present: Chris Soames (Tenant OHAL) John Foster (Sharing Owner, OHAL) Pat Law (Tenant OIC) Linda Lennie (Tenant OIC) Frances Wiles (OHAL Tenant) Kath Fennel (Sharing Owner OHAL) Suzy Boardman (Communication & Engagement Officer, OHAL)

Apologies: None

Facilitator:

Minutes: Suzy Boardman

Item	Action
<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– SB Welcomed everyone to the meeting and enquired how everyone was managing and getting on. Thanked Alan Sim and Robert Leslie for attending	
<p><u>Role of the Housing Officer and help available</u></p> <p>AS had been invited along to the meeting to discuss how Housing Officers have been working with tenants, particularly during the COVID pandemic to help them manage their tenancies and offering advice and support where possible. AS talked about external funds that are available through Scottish Welfare fund for times of crisis. He also spoke about the tenancy sustainment fund distributed by OHAL to tenants who were not able to access any other form of financial support. It was something that has been well received by tenants during these uncertain times. KF asked if there had been any help for sharing owners. AS said the welfare fund could be applied for by sharing owners but that they would need to go to their mortgage lender as they were offering assistance during lockdown. AS said that where possible the HO would work with tenants and SO's to signpost them to any help they can access even where they can't help directly.</p>	
<p><u>Fuel Poverty & THAW Orkney</u></p> <p>RL then spoke about the work that THAW do by supporting residents throughout Orkney that are living in fuel poverty. Referrals can be made directly or through landlords and residents will receive personal advice based on circumstances.</p> <p>RL also mentioned that help could be given in the form of electric top up vouchers to people that were have to self disconnect from their power supply.</p>	

<p>There had also been some very late notice for people using solid fuel or oil heating that they could also receive assistance to top up their supplies but it was a very short time frame that this had to be applied for.</p> <p>RL & AS then left the meeting</p>	
<p><u>Tenant Participation Strategy Consultation</u></p> <p>Members looked at the draft version of the strategy and agreed the consultation period.</p>	
<p><u>AOCB</u></p>	
<p>Session concluded: 3.30pm</p> <p>Date of next meeting: TBC</p>	

DRAFT