

## **ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT 2021**

The Board of Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd "ASL" unanimously approved its Business Plan 2020-2025 in September 2020. The Implementation Plan is in its second year. The plan outlines the challenges the Board faces with financial future viability, void loss, governance, and the management of its subsidiary. It indicates the Board's understanding and level of risks associated with the challenges, and the plans for solutions, which includes a radical change programme over the coming years.

Notably, following the strategic options appraisal in 2019 and the recommendation to seek an RSL partner, ASL is in negotiations with their preferred partner. A collaborative approach, putting customer priorities and benefits to the fore is underway. The outcome is expected in late 2021.

The Board is committed to achieving full compliance. As a result of ongoing engagement, the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) is aware of the current strategic objectives and the business plan. Likewise, the SHR is also aware of the ongoing work in partnership in pursuit of our strategic objective to deliver high quality services. Our commitments are set out in the Business Plan.

The rigorous financial assessment which supports the Business Plan outlines a forward-thinking process and change plan supported by a new Performance Management Framework.

### **Compliance**

The Board considers that ASL has now achieved full compliance with the Regulatory Framework:

- The Board has reviewed all of the relevant requirements set out in chapter 3 of the Framework in considering the status of compliance
- All the relevant standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter have been reviewed by the Board and considered in concluding their assessment
- All the relevant duties as a Board with due regard to legislation and the Rules of the organisation have been reaffirmed with attendance at a training workshop on the Regulatory Framework, in August 2021
- All the Standards of Governance and Financial Management relevant to RSLs have been considered.

A template of assessment is available to the SHR upon request.

The Board will continue to monitor the Business Plan Implementation Action Plan carefully at each meeting and will notify the SHR of any material matters arising.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the SHR.

I confirm that this Assurance Statement will be published on our website on the same date that it is submitted to the SHR.

**Chair, Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd.**

27<sup>th</sup> October 2021