

Bield Housing and Care Annual Assurance Statement 2024

The Board confirms that we have reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Statement and that Bield Housing & Care is compliant with:

- All relevant requirements of Section Three of the Regulatory Framework;
- The Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management;
- The relevant standards and outcomes of the Scottish Social Housing Charter; and
- Our statutory obligations in respect of tenant and resident safety, housing and homelessness and human rights.

The evidence bank incorporates relevant documents and information that contribute to our assurance and which form the structure of Bield's business and governance activities.

The evidence which supports this Statement includes:

- Reports about performance in key areas including our business transformation programme, finance, service delivery, asset management, development and risk
- Internal and External Audit Reports
- Advice from external and specialist advisers including our independent governance review
- Reports, advice and information from senior staff.

In reviewing and assessing our compliance we have adopted an even more robust approach to improvement and scrutiny. This identified a number of improvement actions which we have progressed and monitored since that time with embedded processes that continue to identify areas for improvement as should be expected by any agile and robust organisation. The 2024/25 Improvement Action plan will be progressed during the forthcoming year and monitored by the Board at agreed intervals to ensure successful implementation. We are assured that all of these actions are intended to enhance our governance and financial management and are not material to our compliance.

In reviewing our compliance with the Regulatory Framework, we are assured that we are using data to take account of equality and human rights issues in our decisions, policy-making and day-to-day service delivery.

We confirm that we have met all duties in relation to tenant and resident safety, and in particular have obtained appropriate assurance about Bield's compliance with all relevant safety requirements including:

- Gas safety
- Electrical safety
- Water safety
- Fire safety
- Asbestos
- Damp and Mould
- Lift safety

We have assessed our stock for the presence of RAAC and have identified that 1 development is affected. We are working with specialist advisers to develop a risk

management and mitigation plan. A report will be brought to our Business Development Committee in mid-November and Board by the end of November 2024. Following this, an update will be provided to SHR.

Our approach to reviewing and assessing Bield's compliance has been informed by relevant good practice advice and we have obtained external support to provide us with additional assurance that our approach is effective and robust. This includes compliance with tenant and resident safety requirements. We confirm that this Assurance Statement is being published on our website on the same date that it is submitted to the SHR.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 23 October 2024 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator which confirms that the Board is satisfied that Bield Housing and Care is compliant with the requirements of the Regulatory Framework.

_____ (Chair) 23 October 2024