

## **Bield Housing and Care Assurance Statement 2021**

The Board of Bield Housing and Care confirms that we have reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Statement that Bield is compliant with the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management and the requirements of Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework.

Members of the Board have been actively involved in the development and assessment of the evidence bank which has combined a range of documents that form the core of the Board's ongoing scrutiny and oversight. Additionally, 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. In particular for this year, information relating to the Covid-19 Pandemic has been included in the evidence bank.

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
- Reports, advice and information from senior staff
- Covid-19 Strategic Overview Pandemic Plan
- Covid-19 Financial Impact; Tactical Response; Compliance; governance update
- Covid-19 Risk Register

In reviewing and assessing our compliance, we have adopted an improvement focus and have identified a number of improvement actions which we intend to progress during the year to achieve identified outcomes. These actions form an Improvement Action plan which will be monitored by the Board at agreed intervals to ensure successful achievement. 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 working towards having appropriate systems in place for the collection of equalities data. We are assured that we are working towards using this data to take account of equality and human rights issues in our decisions, policy-making and day-to-day service delivery.

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. 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 September 2021 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.

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(Chair) 14 October 2021