

The Management Committee of Elderpark Housing is of the belief that based upon the robust self-assurance processes undertaken, the decisions taken by the Management Committee, Senior Management Team along with significant external validation and review that we are 'assured' that we remain **materially compliant** with the Regulatory Standards set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.

In undertaking the self-assurance exercise Elderpark Housing has appropriate assurance that we:

- Comply with the regulatory requirements as set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework
- Comply with the standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services
- Comply with the relevant legislative duties
- Have taken appropriate account of the regulatory advice provided by the Scottish Housing Regulator and other regulatory bodies
- Comply with the Scottish Housing Regulator's Standards of Governance and Financial Management.

Evidence of these sources of assurance include:

- A detailed self-assurance framework which provides evidence and review of the Regulatory Requirements and has been externally reviewed for its appropriateness of use
- Management Committee reports on key business areas such as governance, finance, human resources, asset management, housing management, service delivery and development which all include consideration of risk, regulatory compliance, impact on tenants and financial exposure
- Detailed professional advice in the form of reports and updates from the Chief Executive, Senior Management Team and relevant staff members
- Internal audit reports, policy review process, peer review exercises, benchmarking services and partnership working
- Reports and analysis from external auditors, appointed advisers and specialist consultant advisers all of whom provide external independent evaluation, feedback and validation.

The association recognises that success during an abnormal year can sometimes be about the stability rather than driving forward and realism is taken when reflecting over the last year. On this basis we are assured that despite these challenges although our performance in relation to the ARC has reduced slightly across some areas this is less evident than has been seen across the sector and we remain a strong performing organisation with significant opportunities for continued growth in performance, innovation and delivery of services.

The last 12 months has seen the association embark on some major collaborative working exercises in relation to seeking assurance. Using an innovative approach of working with other RSL's with no direct or obvious linkages to commission external consultants on key aspects including a Collaborative Governance review with five participating RSL's and a comprehensive Tenant Safety Audit has meant that rather than seeking external assurance in isolation we have also sought to foster and develop methods of learning from others within the commission.

The Tenant Safety Audit is not yet concluded with the remaining two of the six areas due to be reported to the Management Committee towards the end of the calendar year however this comprehensive approach to reviewing Tenant Safety across the six areas (asbestos, fire safety, legionella, electrical safety, gas safety and lifts) has been the one of the most detailed audits carried out on behalf of the association with various recommendations in place to build upon our existing tenant safety approaches.

With support from an external consultant we have also developed a new Business Plan for the period 2021-24 which seeks to achieve our vision of supporting 'a vibrant neighbourhood where everyone can prosper' with a focus on modern services, quality and sustainable homes and ensuring effective governance and financial management. This Business Plan provides an added layer of assurance that our aspirations are achievable and realistic over the term of the plan.

The recently published National Guidance on the Collection of Equality Information will be considered over the coming months with an Equalities Strategy developed which will outline the mechanisms we will use to meet this requirement. The intention would be to develop this strategy in partnership with other RSL's together with seeking appropriate support from our external Data Protection Officer to ensure compliance against all legislative requirements and regulatory obligations. A number of key documents that will sit within the Strategy are already embedded in our practices, including our Equality and Diversity Policy, Action Plan and Equality Impact Assessment procedure.

The current sources of assurance together with our Assurance Action Plan will be reviewed by the Management Committee on a continuous basis in line with our assurance framework methodology. Additionally on an annual basis the Management Committee will undertake an exercise focusing on a fuller review of the self-assurance template, a review of the risk register and risk appetite, an update of the Business Plan including an environmental analysis and an assessment of our medium to longer term financial projections.

**Signed on behalf of Management Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021:**

**Janet Evans, Chairperson**