

Draft Annual Assurance Statement

As stated in our Engagement Plan, we are currently working to rectify various areas of weakness which have been identified in a number of internal reviews and external validations which were carried out following on from a Whistleblowing event in late 2020. This was following submission of our last Assurance Statement at which point the Board were assured that we were compliant.

As a consequence of the Whistleblowing event, we appointed an experienced Interim Manager to drive forward the numerous changes required to ensure that we are working towards compliance in all areas of our business. We are working to a deadline of 31 March 2022. We have put in place a new staff structure and are modernising our ways of working to ensure we are in the best position to provide services to our tenants.

We have a comprehensive Governance Improvement Plan in place and are making good progress in all areas and we are meeting regularly with the Scottish Housing Regulator to keep them updated on our progress. This includes our equalities and human rights requirements.

We have commissioned a stock condition survey and property valuations to allow us to put in place an informed Asset Management Strategy. Our financial plans will be updated to reflect the outcome of these two significant pieces of work.

Although the Board recognises that we are working toward compliance with regards to certain areas within the Regulatory Framework and Scottish Social Housing Charter, there are no financial concerns or weaknesses.

We will commission a strategic options appraisal in early 2022 to assist the Board with deciding on the future direction of Homes for Life and what the organisation will look like to ensure we are meeting the needs of current and future tenants. This will lead to an informed and tailored Business Plan.

We are keeping tenants informed of our progress through various publications.

We confirm that this Assurance Statement will be published on our website on the same date that it is being submitted to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 27 October 2021 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator. I confirm that this Assurance Statement is also being published on our website.

Signed:

Jamila Greig
Chair 27 October 2021

Toiboath Gate 57 Market Street Haddington East Lothian EH41 3JG
Telephone 01620 829300 Fax: 01620 829993 e-mail: info@homesforlife.co.uk

Registered Social Landlord No. 311