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**July 2011**

## **ARHM celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Association of Retirement Housing Managers (ARHM) this year celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Formed in 1991 the ARHM has developed an extremely important role in the management of leasehold retirement housing. The ARHM now represents 54 member organisations who manage over 105,000 retirement properties in the UK, providing management services to over 150,000 retired people.

It is the only body that jointly represents both the private sector and registered social landlords, which is why it is now widely consulted on various matters by both the Government and other professional bodies.

The ARHM's mission is to continually raise standards within the sector by promoting best practice and ethics amongst those managing retirement housing. It is also committed to promoting quality and professionalism through training and education of its members and raising awareness of the benefits of retirement housing.

The ARHM remains committed to raising standards in retirement housing across the whole of the UK.

The ARHM celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary during its annual Summer Conference, this year held at Walton Hall near Stratford at the end of June. Speakers included Dame Joan Bakewell and other eminent speakers.

**- ENDS -**

### **For further information please contact:**

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### **Notes to Editors**

The ARHM Code of Practice for England, which was approved by the Government under the Leasehold, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993, aims to promote best practice in the management of leasehold retirement housing, regardless of whether the services are provided by private companies or housing associations.

It not only sets out the statutory obligations that apply to the management of leasehold properties but also sets out additional requirements which should be followed as a matter of good practice.



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The Code of Practice forms a benchmark for Leasehold Valuation Tribunals in the exercise of their role in relation to the management of retirement leasehold properties. This makes the code an extremely useful source of reference for managers, and also for leaseholders as it provides clarification around the level of service they can expect to receive.

The ARHM has also achieved success on a national basis. The Code of Practice for Scotland was launched by Alex Neil MSP, the Housing and Communities Minister for the Scottish Government on 26 October 2009. The Code of Practice for Wales was successfully launched by Jocelyn Davies AM, the Deputy Minister for Housing at the Senedd in Cardiff on 22 November 2010.

The Association is committed to high standards and ethics in the management of private retirement and sheltered housing.

The main objectives of the ARHM are to:

- Promote high standards of practice and ethics in the management of retirement housing and in the provision of services to residents.
- Set standards for membership of the Association and promote quality and professionalism through training and education of members.
- Monitor standards of members including implementing a compliance testing regime so that further improvements in standards can be made.
- Consider and comment on matters affecting the Association and retirement housing and to promote the views of the Association in the business, social, educational and political communities.
- Investigate and determine complaints against members
- Provide the principal forum for the discussion and progression of issues facing retirement housing
- Promote the benefits of retirement housing
- Provide and disseminate information on retirement housing and to act as a source of professionally based knowledge
- Foster the exchange of ideas and information between members and organisations