



ARHM BRIEFING NOTE TO MEMBERS

Note no: BN 14/16

Welcome to the latest issue of our Briefing Note. On behalf of the Board of Directors we wish you all a very happy 2016 and hope you enjoyed a good Christmas break.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

A warm welcome to our new Board Members

We are delighted to announce the appointment of 2 new Board members following our recruitment drive last Autumn. Yashmin Mistry, partner at JPC Law joins the Board with a wealth of leasehold experience as an award winning partner in a successful London law firm. Yashmin is featured in the prestigious News on the Block Top 100 leasehold industry experts 2015, and Legal 500. We are sure Yashmin's appointment will strengthen the Board, in particular with regards to the development of new initiatives to support the ARHM by drawing upon her experience of webinars and seminars.

We also welcome Helen Bowerbank, Regional Director (South) at Hanover. Helen takes over from Karen Carter as one of 2 Hanover representatives and brings over 20 years experience in housing. As well as her regional responsibilities, Helen has the national strategic remit for Hanover's Home Ownership portfolio.

We thank Karen Carter for her invaluable contribution to the ARHM during her term, particularly with reference to her role on the Conference planning committee.

BOARD MEETINGS 2016

9th February, 14th April, 14th June, 16th August, 19th October 9th December

ARHM CODE UPDATE

The final draft version of our updated Code is with the DCLG awaiting Ministerial approval. Stephen Lewis, Law Commissioner, leading on the 'Event Fees' project mentioned our Code of Practice when he spoke at an event last month attended by industry experts and MP's. Speaking about 'Event Fees' and the proposals for sanctions against companies who break the rules, he said,

'The rules would be contained in a stand-alone set of provisions approved by the Department of Communities and Local Government. They would then be adopted in industry codes of practice, like the Association of Retirement Housing Managers code of practice. Because they are approved by DCLG, the rules would apply even to companies that are not members of the trade association.

And we recommend that the codes should have statutory backing, so that if a company breaks the rules about event fees, the event fee will not have to be paid. To do this, we would amend the list of indicatively unfair contract terms in the Consumer Rights Act 2015, the so-called "grey list". An entry would be added for event fees that do not comply with the relevant code of practice. So where the code had not been complied with, the courts would, in our view, be very likely to find that the event fee term was unfair and unenforceable.'

NB: The consultation period with regard to the Law Commission's investigation into 'Event Fees' closes on 29th January. <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk>

ARHM CONFERENCE 2016

We are pleased to announce that our annual conference will take place on **Wednesday 15th June** at the Etc Venue Maple House, Birmingham. Details of agenda and early bird ticket offers will be available shortly.

REGIONAL TRAINING EVENTS 2015

The next Regional Training Events will take place in April 2016.

South West 13th April Girlings Retirement Taunton

London and South East 21st April Venue TBC

North of England 19th April Venue TBC

Remember these events are free* to Members and provide a valuable opportunity for networking with others working in this specialist sector. We have found that scheme and Estate based staff have found the last events particularly helpful so please extend the invitation to site based staff to enhance their knowledge of leasehold. Refreshments and lunch provided.

***We do however reserve the right to make a charge for non attendance without prior notification as the places on these events are limited.**

Email enquiries@arhm.org or call 0207 463 0660 to reserve your place.

SECTOR NEWS

EAC National Housing for Older People Awards 2015

The Awards will be celebrated on **Wednesday 17th February 2016** at the Hilton Deansgate, Manchester. Over 4000 residents across 360 developments in the UK have taken part in the nomination process. The bronze silver and gold award winners will be announced at the event. The ARHM is pleased to be sponsoring a category at the event. For details of those shortlisted, please visit:

housingawards@eac.org.uk

Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report December 2015

This latest report looks at the relationship between income, wealth and the experience of retirement of low income older households. A summary of the report is attached.

‘SILVER CHIC’ – The future of Retirement Housing and Care

This report, attached, sets out the findings of Anchor’s research, looking at the retirement housing and residential care solutions of the future. Drawing on views and experiences of 55-65 year olds, which explored their needs and preferences for retirement housing, it sets out how providers of retirement housing and residential care may need to respond to these trends, and what the future of retirement housing and residential care might look like.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Goldsborough Estates Sales & Legal Manager

Goldsborough Estates, part of Bupa, offer an Estate Agency service to leaseholders for resales within its portfolio of managed retirement apartments and is looking to recruit a Manager to lead its small team, based in Leeds. The portfolio is predominantly in the north west and north east but has three high value developments in London. The package on offer includes a company car and usual Bupa benefits.

If you would like more information on the role please contact Annette Elliott, Operations Director on annette.elliott@bupa.com