

ARHM BRIEFING NOTE TO MEMBERS

Note no: BN 18/17

Welcome to the January issue of our Briefing Note. We wish all our members a very happy new year and look forward to working with you in 2017.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

ARHM CODE OF PRACTICE AUDIT PROCESS

Our Regional Training Events held in November and December 2016 focused on the main changes to the Code of Practice which came into effect from 1st June 2016. The Audit process will begin for all members starting from next week. We have previously visited individual office locations to carry out the audits and they focused usually on 3 or 4 chapters of the Code.

The Directors have decided this year to focus on the Code as a whole in order to assess compliance with the Code of Practice which is a requirement of membership of the ARHM. As a result of the wider remit, the audit will take the form of a desktop exercise. Members will be required to complete the audit document and provide evidence in support of their compliance. Full details will be provided in the audit pack which will be sent to each organisation's named contact; there will be a period of 4 weeks to complete the documentation. Feedback will be given to Chief Executives/Senior Management following completion of the audit process. We look forward to working with you during the process and we emphasise again that our approach is very much a supportive one to help organisations achieve full compliance and demonstrate that you work to the highest standards in the management of leasehold retirement housing.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR LEASE

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is seeking to appoint two new Members to the LEASE Board for a four-year term. The successful candidates will be able to assist the Chair and Board, in providing strategic direction to LEASE. By serving on the board of a public body, the successful candidate will play a vital role in making decisions to improve the delivery of LEASE's services.

Further information and details of how to apply can be found at the link below:

<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/member-leasehold-advisory-service-board/>

HOUSE OF COMMONS LEASEHOLD DEBATE

As you may know there was a general debate in the main chamber of the House of Commons on 21st December about leasehold and commonhold reform.

This debate was scheduled by the Backbench Business Committee following a representation from [Jim Fitzpatrick](#) MP and [Sir Peter Bottomley](#) MP.

For information the link is below:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-20/debates/4F15110B-F6D5-4FA1-9154-536BD848130E/LeaseholdAndCommonholdReform>

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Many thanks to all Members who confirmed their agreement to the proposed changes in the Articles of Association; we achieved in excess of the required majority. The Directors are therefore pleased to confirm that the new Articles of Association have now been adopted and lodged with Companies House.

REMINDER! ADDED VALUE SERVICE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LEASE

Our 'added value' member service in partnership with LEASE was launched at our conference in October 2016 by LEASE Chief Executive Anthony Essien. By way of a reminder please see below for details. Please do take advantage of the services on offer. It is of course early days and if there are other services that you consider could be beneficial please do get in touch.

In summary the additional benefits are:

- The provision of up to 120 advisor credits (in total) for ARHM members (each credit represents 20 minutes of adviser time)
- LEASE attending the ARHM Regional Training Events held April and October in 3 locations across the country currently, London, Taunton and Leeds
- Access to 3 free library webinars per annum for each ARHM member
- The commissioning of a webinar specifically for ARHM members (subject to be agreed)

- Discounts on other services
 - 20% discount on training services
 - 10% discount on Early Neutral Evaluation and Mediation
 - 10% discount on additional dedicated telephone advice

If you have any questions about the added value services please email us at enquiries@arhm.org

REGIONAL TRAINING EVENTS

The RTE's held in November and December focused on the changes to the Code of Practice ahead of the audit process referred to above. In addition LEASE is doing a webinar around the Code on Thursday 12th January, see below for details.

<http://shop.lease-advice.org/products-page/webinar/codes-of-honour-part-1-arhm-webinar/>

Price: £65.00 (+VAT) ***additional discount if 3 or more places are booked at the same time.**

SECTOR NEWS

MANAGEMENT FEE LIMITS 2017

We have been in touch with our contact at the HCA and they have advised that the management fee limits have not as yet been agreed with DCLG. We will circulate the information as soon as we receive it.

EAC AWARDS 2017 – VOTING NOW OPEN!



Housing for Older People Awards
housingawards@eac.org.uk

ELDERLY
ACCOMMODATION
COUNSEL



www.housingcare.org

Voting opens to find the UK's top retirement housing

New app gives residents, staff and visitors the power to vote in the 2017 EAC National Housing for Older People Awards

This month, residents, visitors and staff start to vote for the 'National Housing for Older People Awards 2017'.

The poll, organised by Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC), will celebrate the best examples of housing for later life in the UK.

Online voting at awards.eac.org.uk offers a simple way for anyone involved in older people's housing to register their support for a particular scheme.

EAC specialises in information and advice for older people, via their advice line and their housingcare.org website, which attracts 17,000 visitors every day.

EAC Chief executive John Galvin is excited about the initiative. "This is the seventh year of the Housing Awards, but this year we have developed a very direct way of engaging all those who care about housing for older people. We are turning the spotlight on schemes that really make a difference to the lives of older people."

Polling ends on the 28th of February 2017 and selected developments will be invited to attend the National Housing for Older People Awards ceremony at Edgbaston Cricket Ground in Birmingham next May.

The Housing for older People Awards are sponsored by Legal & General and are supported by a range of housing organisations that promote quality in older people's housing.

Notes:

- 1) Elderly Accommodation Counsel provides information and advice about housing and care options to older people and their relatives and carers. It has a national telephone helpline (0800 377 7070) and also oversees a website (www.housingcare.org) with a unique database of over 40,000 specialist accommodation schemes for older people.
- 2) For further information on the awards, photographs or to interview John Galvin or residents or staff of participating housing organisations, please call Alex Billeter on 020 7820 1682 or email alex.billeter@aec.org.uk or visit the website – www.housingcare.org

BOARD MEETINGS 2017

7th February 5th April 7th June 16th August 18th October 7th December