

Welcome . . . to the first edition of the Housing for Older People Newsletter

A Message from the Commission for Racial Equality

Engaging local ethnic minority people in discussions on the issues which shape the way they live, work and learn is crucial if these views are to inform the way that policy makers and legislators think. Providing a channel for dialogue about key events and initiatives is an essential way of keeping people informed and giving them the opportunity to engage in the issues affecting their lives. The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) has long lobbied for more consultation and better public access to information about public policy making, in particular in the housing sector.

For this reason, the CRE was delighted to learn about the Kirk Care, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations wish to develop this newsletter.

"The Housing for Older People Newsletter aims to be a vehicle for ethnic minority people to learn about the issues affecting them and to give them the opportunity to express their views on a range of issues."

Please take this opportunity to read about the issues which will affect you and your housing, learn about some of the up and coming issues, and contribute your views on housing for ethnic minority people in Scotland.

I hope that this will be the first of many editions of the Housing for Older People Newsletter and look forward to reading more in the future.

Dharmendra Kanani
Head of CRE Scotland



This Newsletter is also available in Chinese, Punjabi and Urdu.

Housing for Older People NEWSLETTER

**Issue 1
January 2001**

Bield, Hanover (Scotland) and Kirk Care Housing Associations have jointly appointed Rohini Lakhanpal as Housing Equal Opportunities Officer with a remit to establish and maintain effective contact with the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities (BME) in Central Scotland.

Identifying Needs

The New post of Housing Equal Opportunities Officer was established in response to one of the recommendations of a major research project commissioned by the Housing Associations to identify the specific housing needs of older people from the BME communities.

Working towards equality

Bield, Hanover (Scotland) and Kirk Care Housing Associations provide a wide range of housing and support services for older people.

Since her appointment, Rohini has been working towards improving the access BME communities have to information and advice about the housing and support services provided by the Associations.

Over the last year, Rohini has networked with groups and individuals, consulted extensively, organised promotional events and developed multi-language literature. The launch of this "Housing for Older People Newsletter" is another initiative designed to keep all three Housing Associations in contact with members of the BME communities and to provide regular news updates.

**promoting choice
and opportunities in**

**Housing for people from
black and
minority ethnic
communities**

Achieving equality

Those of you who attended the promotional events organised by Bield, Hanover (Scotland) and Kirk Care Housing Associations in Edinburgh and Glasgow will agree that the events were a success. We hope the evenings were informative and enjoyable and that our guests recognised the events as an indication of our commitment to serve the needs of all communities. The evenings were a starting point in our efforts to create meaningful links between housing providers and representatives of BME communities and others who might benefit from the housing and care services we offer.

The Associations wanted to hear about what you thought about the social events and a survey was carried out at both promotional evenings, as part of our commitment and to build feedback into our plans and projects. A very positive feedback was received and a very hearty “thank you” to everyone who took time to respond. Your suggestions and comments are being carefully considered.

Monthly Surgeries



Advice and information on housing for older people and job opportunities within these Housing Associations.

every second Tuesday of the month
12.00 - 2.00pm
at Milan, Pilmeny Youth Centre
44 Buchanan Street, Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 555 5550

every first Tuesday of the month
11.00 - 1.00pm
at Mel-Milaap Centre
134 Berkeley Street, Glasgow
Tel: 0141 248 7307

every second Wednesday of the month
11.00 - 1.00pm
at MECC
311 Calder Street, Govanhill, Glasgow
Tel: 0141 445 3332
Tel: 0141 248 7307

Job Opportunities

A List of all job opportunities within the three Associations is regularly sent to all BME community organisations. If you are interested please contact the Human Resources Section of the respective Associations directly (see telephone numbers on back page). If you wish to have an informal chat please do not hesitate to contact Rohini on 0131 225 7246.

New Work of Interest

Currently, an information pack is being prepared which will include details of different types of sheltered housing and a list of all housing developments in Scotland managed by Bield, Hanover (Scotland) and Kirk Care Housing Associations. This can be obtained soon from the Associations.

Remember . . .

If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more about Housing for older people, please contact Rohini at the number below.

If you are interested in finding out more about these Housing Associations or have any comments or suggestions for the Newsletter, please telephone or write to:

Rohini Lakhanpal
Housing Equal Opportunities Officer
Kirk Care Housing Association Ltd
9 Albyn Place
Edinburgh, EH2 4NG
Tel: 0131 225 7246
Email: rlakhanpal@kirkcare.co.uk



Happy to Translate Logo

Bield, Hanover (Scotland) and Kirk Care took the initiative to develop a 'Happy to Translate Logo' designed to encourage Housing Associations like ourselves and other major organisations to make provision for the translation of key information leaflets and improve access by BME communities to all sorts of resources and services. Your views and comments throughout the consultation process have been very valuable and have been taken on board. Thank you for all your support. Further developments on this initiative will be highlighted in the next edition of the newsletter.

Wishing you a Prosperous Happy New Year
from all at
Bield, Hanover (Scotland) and Kirk Care Housing Associations

EDINBURGH

Kirk Care Housing Association Limited, 9 Albyn Place, Edinburgh EH2 4NG Tel: 0131 225 7246
Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association Limited, 36 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QH Tel: 0131 557 0598
Bield Housing Association Limited, 22 Windsor Street, Edinburgh EH7 5JR Tel: 0131 273 4000

GLASGOW

Kirk Care Housing Association Limited, 25 Park Circus, Glasgow G3 6AP Tel: 0141 341 3200
Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association Limited, 5 Newton Place, Glasgow G3 7PR Tel: 0141 353 1353
Bield Housing Association Limited, 12 Somerset Place, Glasgow G3 7JT Tel: 0141 270 7200