

The Housing for Older People Newsletter wish you...

...a Happy New Year

A Message from  
Iain Gray MSP, Minister for Social Justice

At the start of this New Year I wish to congratulate Kirk Care, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations for continuing their innovative work with older people including those from our Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

I fully support the associations' objective of tackling discrimination head on and addressing the problems of social exclusion experienced by many older people. It is important to take forward a very clear message that we oppose institutional or any other forms of discrimination. A central aim of Scottish Executive is to foster a more inclusive society which engages fully with the rich diversity of cultures and communities making up Scottish life. All of us need to respond positively to the experience of older people including those from minority ethnic communities and to recognise their specific housing needs.



**"It is only by working together that we will help ensure that people are given the opportunity to fully engage in the key issues affecting their lives and community. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you all in the year ahead."**



Housing for Older People  
NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE...

Fife Event,

Open  
Surgeries,

Partnership  
Working

and much  
more!

This Newsletter is available in English, Chinese, Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi.

### Fife Event

As stated in the previous newsletter a Social Event was held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2001 at The Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy. The evening was well attended and it was encouraging to see so many people from the BME communities interacting with the associations.

The guest speaker for the evening, Margaret Curran MSP, Deputy Minister for Social Justice spoke highly of the positive actions the housing associations are taking to inform all the communities of their housing and support services. Other speakers included Selma Rahman, Director, Fife Racial Equality Council and Councillor Theresa Gunn, Chair-Adult Services Committee, Fife Council.

The housing associations are looking forward to seeing an increasing number of people from the communities accessing and using the wide range of services they have to offer.



# Visits to Sheltered and Care Housing

Due to the success of visits by older people from BME communities and staff to sheltered and care housing further visits were organised for Nari Kalyan Sangho (NKS), Minority Ethnic Carers of Older People Project (MECOPP) and Multicultural Elderly Care Centre (MECC). The visitors were able to ask direct questions from staff and see the benefits of support in Sheltered Housing for themselves. The organisations visited sheltered housing developments in Edinburgh, Callander, Troon, Alexandria and Helensburgh and the feedback has been very positive.



*“ The warm welcome and the hospitality offered by the staff was very much appreciated. It was generally felt to be an informative day that broke down some of the mystery attached to Sheltered Housing. “*

Shahida Zafar, Community Care Manager, MECC

*“ Sincere thanks and appreciation for the hospitality shown to the group when visiting your housing complex in Callander.”*

Neena Agarwal, Manager, Milan

## Partnership Working

The associations are currently in dialogue with Milan to see how they can assist this organisation to progress the establishment of a purpose built day care centre. Milan (Senior Welfare Council) has been campaigning for the centre, which will meet the needs of its users and provide comfortable and suitable accommodation.

*“ The appointment of Rohini Sharma as Housing Equal Opportunities Officer has made a great difference in addressing the needs of our users. Her monthly surgeries in our centre have resulted in some of them being housed. She takes personal interest in the cases referred to her and tries to match the houses to their needs. ”*

Lord M. Yousaf Inait OBE OIA JP  
Chairman, Milan (Senior Welfare Council)

## Listening -

### Benefits of Sheltered Housing

The housing associations have audio cassettes on Sheltered Housing- “what it is, who it is for and how to get it “. These cassettes can be borrowed and are available in Chinese, Urdu, Bengali, Hindi and Punjabi.

If you think your organisation or any individual would benefit from finding out about sheltered housing, please contact Rohini on 0131-225-7246.

## Open Surgeries

Open Surgeries continue to improve links with the communities at grass root level. The number of people seeking advice on housing provided by these housing associations has increased considerably over the last few months.

If any other BME elderly day care centre would like the Housing Equal Opportunities Officer to come to their centre to speak to users on housing for older people, please telephone Rohini on 0131-225-7246 to make arrangements for the visit.

“ Regular open surgeries at Mel-Milaap day care centre have helped users to have direct contact with Rohini and discuss their housing issues without any language barrier. The information leaflet, newsletters and the opportunities to visit Sheltered Housing have given users of Mel-Milaap and staff an insight into sheltered housing and its benefits.

We welcome the initiatives taken by the associations in addressing our housing needs.”

Mr Gurdeep Singh Puri  
Manager, Mel Milaap Centre

## Monthly Surgeries



Advice and information on housing for older people and job opportunities within these Housing Associations, continues to be available at our Monthly Surgeries.

every second Tuesday of the month  
12.00 - 2.00pm at Milan.  
Tel: 0131 555 5330 Tel: 0131 555 6500

every first Tuesday of the month  
11.00 - 1.00pm at Mel-Milaap Centre  
Tel: 0141 564 1038

every second Wednesday of the month  
11.00 - 1.00pm at MECC  
Tel: 0141 585 8012

Thanks for your continuing comments and suggestions on this newsletter.

Please keep sending your views or suggestions to:

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### GLASGOW

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