

### Common Housing Register From the Scottish Executive

#### What is a common housing register?

A common housing register [CHR] is where a group of landlords (for example councils, housing associations and housing co-operatives) develop a single application form and a single register of applicants who have completed this form. Applicants looking for housing in their area then complete the form advising where they would like to be housed and the type of housing they need. The landlords participating in the register then select applicants from their waiting own list, held within the register using their own lettings policies.

The Scottish Executive supports the development of CHRs in Scotland as they make applying for housing much easier for the applicant who no longer has to visit various housing landlords in order to register their housing need.

The Scottish Executive launched a National Framework for CHRs in March 2001, encouraging landlords to develop a CHR in their local area. The Executive's commitment to this initiative has been supported by the award of £684,962 under the Modernising Government Fund to six local authorities across Scotland, the very recent announcement of an additional £3m Executive funding and the employment of a National Co-ordinator and a National Development Officer on a full time basis to support CHR development. The local authorities are expected to work in partnership with other landlords to develop CHRs for their area, whilst considering their local needs, the needs of the applicants applying to them and how their CHR would operate with other services they deliver.

In particular, the Scottish Executive is asking landlords to consider the provision of housing advice to their applicants and that they include this in their CHR development plan. It is essential that applicants are advised of what housing is available, where that housing is available and that any housing offered by the landlords would indeed meet the needs of the applicant. It is preferable that this advice is offered *before* the applicant's name is added to the register thus ensuring the applicants needs and expectations are met.

There are already four CHRs operating across Scotland - Aberdeen, Perth & Kinross, Edinburgh and Renfrewshire. A further four are likely to be introduced by the spring of next year, at least on a trial basis. All other local authority areas in Scotland are actively developing CHRs; some are more advanced than others. This demonstrating the commitment by landlords across the nation to improve access to housing for those who need it most!



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Common  
Housing  
Register

INSIDE...

LETS GET  
TOGETHER

INFORMATION  
SEMINAR

JOB  
OPPORTUNITES  
FAIR

VIDEO LAUNCH

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

## Lets Get Together 15th October

### Older Person's Cultural Awareness Day – North Glasgow

The Associations supported the above event, which was organised by various organisations coming together including the Glasgow City Council, Community Health Project, Community Food Initiative, Springburn Voluntary & Befriending Project and Strathclyde Police.



The purpose of the day was to breakdown and overcome cultural barriers and to raise the profile of older people in North Glasgow.

Gwyneth Guthrie (Mrs Mack of Take the High Road) opened the day. While the guests were entertained with multicultural songs, dances from the different parts of the world, healthy food to eat, there was information on the services provided by the various Public and Community organisations.

On the whole it was a day to enjoy and learn about other cultures and have mutual understanding and respect for each other.

### Information Seminar ( Help for Home Owners )

Race Equality in Housing Forum (South East of Scotland) held its 2<sup>nd</sup> seminar on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2003 at:

City Chambers, Edinburgh.

The forum is established to bring together the associations and representatives of housing providers, black and minority ethnic communities, voluntary organisations and local authorities within the Areas of Operation for the purpose of promoting racial equality in the provision of housing services. The forum operates in the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Mid Lothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

The purpose of the event was to inform and explain to homeowners what help is available to them on:

- Free Central Heating for the over 60's
- Help with keeping their house warm
- Help if they live in a shared stair
- Adaptations – what does it mean
- Care and repair

We will inform you of future seminars. If you would like information or advice on specific issues or have any suggestions please let us know.

## Job Opportunities Fair

The three Housing Associations in partnership with the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and The Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland have planned a job opportunities fair for Black & Minority Ethnic communities.

This job fair will present those attending with a unique opportunity to find out how to get a job and develop a career within a public sector company. There will be:

- one to one discussion with employers about job opportunities within their organisation
- workshops sessions on preparing CVs and job applications.
- the chance to learn about effective interview techniques.

The fair will be held on Sat. 12th June 2004 at Corn Exchange, 11 Newmarket Road, Edinburgh between 11.00AM to 5.00PM. Refreshments will be served.

It is open to everyone from Black & Minority ethnic communities seeking a new job or help with their careers.

Please let those who might benefit from attending this event know.

For more information please contact Rohini on 0131-225-7246.

## Producing a Multicultural Calendar for 2004



In keeping the momentum of promotion of equality and by taking up new initiatives the three Associations have produced a multicultural calendar for the year 2004.

While celebrating the importance of multicultural Scotland, the calendar has colourful pictures of different festivals of the many communities and highlights the important dates from different cultures.

It is hoped that the calendars will help service providers develop a deeper knowledge of the different cultures. It should help them to take account of important dates from all communities while organising events and seminars and provide them with some information on these festivals.

## Happy to Translate LOGO – Further progress

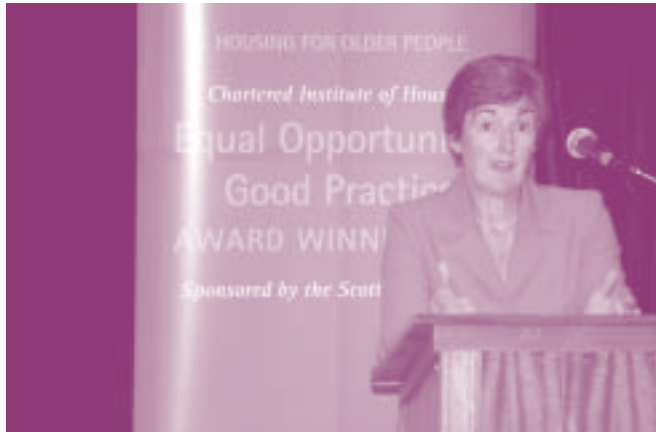
The three Associations have continued their discussion with the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland for funding to develop the use of the LOGO.

This has progressed very well and it is hoped that the outcome of the funding proposal will be known by Dec 2003. Watch the space for further news on this. We will keep you updated and informed.

## Open Surgeries



*Advice and information on housing for older people and job opportunities within these Housing Associations, continues to be available at our Open Surgeries. If you would like the Open Surgery to be held within your organisation please contact Rohini to arrange time, date and location.*



## Video launch - Fife

Another successful launch of the video in partnership with the Fife Council was held at Rothes Halls, Glenrothes on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2003. The video illustrates benefits of sheltered housing such as on site staff support, heating, special design features to meet needs of older people, overcoming language barriers and general support and independence.

Christine May MSP was the main speaker. The launch was well attended by people from Black & Minority Ethnic communities and different service providers.

Copies of the video or DVD are still available.

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This is a joint publication by Kirk Care, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield Housing Associations. If you would like to tell communities about an event or about your project and would like it to be advertised in this newsletter please write or telephone:

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