

Minutes of the LGBT+ @ Housing 21

15 July 2024

Via Teams

Attending: Cressida Stanley Williams (Housing 21), Mabelle House (Housing 21), Alexis Savage (resident), David Cole (resident), Vicki Volante-Hurd (Housing 21, minutes)

Item		Action
1.	Introductions	
	Introductions took place. DC joined approximately 10 minutes into the meeting.	
2	What would you like this forum to do and achieve?	
	<p>AS expressed, face to face meetings were better to try and attract more people to join the groups. Not everyone has a smart phone or laptop. It was suggested once a year face to face meeting as it wouldn't be practical too often due to widespread courts and travelling.</p> <p>AS suggested two resident forums to run alongside each other. One with just the residents, and then another with Housing 21 employees. It gives the opportunity for residents to express their views in an open forum without a tier of management enabling them to feel more comfortable.</p> <p>CSW advised that this could be possible, but it depends on what outcome is wanted as Housing 21 can be there to facilitate and move any suggestions forward.</p>	
3	Does the name 'LGBT+ Forum' represent this group effectively?	
	<p>AS commented that most people would probably recognise LGBT with the + on the end, because the more letters there are, the less likely people are to pay attention to it. AS feels the name LGBT+ is sufficient. DC also agrees that it is a good starting point.</p> <p>AS suggested rather than be called a forum, to maybe change it to LGBT + @ Housing 21. CSW asked what would you want the strap line to be? 'Improving LGBT+ lives at Housing 21'.</p> <p>It's important to be clear on the aims and objectives in order to attract new members. CSW asked attendees to think of a couple of suggestions for the next meeting. To have an aim and objective around making</p>	

	<p>schemes visibly inclusive to LGBT+, and to come up with a strap line around this (safe and secure, making it better). Action point.</p> <p>CSW to speak with Comms. to change name on website and to try and get an action plan together. To also identify how the other groups are sharing their action plans and to share this with AS and DC. Action point.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>CSW</p>
4	What is your daily life like at your scheme as an LGBT+ identifying person?	
	<p>DC's daily life is currently quiet on the scheme and has no issues but did speak about a particular experience he had had when moving onto his scheme. AS expressed the same views and has had a positive experience.</p>	
5	Housing 21's resident profile – demographic breakdowns of our residents	
	<p>MH shared the figures on a slide show showing what research was carried out last year split between our Extra Care Residents and Retirement Living residents on sexual orientation. CSW advised the data collection included all characteristics including sexuality, but it's not included on our housing system currently but will be in the future. MH discussed the comparisons with the 2020-2021 census data throughout the wider UK population across all age groups.</p> <p>AS commented on the data slideshow that it was referring to sexual orientation and does not talk about gender. For example, all those people that were identifying as straight could be transgender. AS suggested it may be a good idea to include gender. MH confirmed it was included in the data but not in this presentation.</p> <p>CSW advised that the data will not be 100% as not everyone would have completed the information and some groups like Oldham PFI, haven't been included because they are slightly different in the way they are managed.</p> <p>MH to send out the demographic information that she has gone through today and will also look to see if she has anything about gender breakdown. Action point.</p>	MH
6.	What resources and support are available for LGBTQ+ residents? What would you like to see?	

	<p>AS would like the Stonewall Chartermark to be displayed in lobbies at courts. Also, something that has LGBT+ colours attached to it, maybe like a book or a leaflet. We discussed the Stonewall Chartermark and that it is aimed at organisations and their employees.</p> <p>AS suggested more leaflets and little cards, information on the website and doing videos which is more visual.</p> <p>With regard to attracting more members to the group, AS believes a video would get more response. CSW spoke about the podcast that was held during pride month promoting the LGBT+ group on 15/07. CSW advised that if we did a video, it could be shared via workplace to scheme managers and we could target schemes that have smart TVs. CSW confirmed 43 schemes have smart TV's and could make use of the resident's meetings sharing the video and information. CSW to speak to the Communications team about the possibility of this.</p>	CSW
7.	Introduction to HouseProud and the Pledge Project, and No Place Like Home study: Exploring the concerns, preferences and experiences of LGBT*Q social housing residents	
	CSW discussed HouseProud and the information sent out via email. CSW posted the web address into the chat for further information for attendees to review and consider whether it's something we want to take part in.	All
8.	Dates of next meeting	
	Monday 16 September via Teams	