

ARCH TENANTS GROUP

Give the relatively recent election with a new government there was no new interaction with government official, noting also the change of name from DLUHC(Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The discussion on the topic of Right to Buy continue and we hosted some officials from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to listen to member's varying views:

- The Government committed in its manifesto to review the increased Right to Buy (RtB) discounts introduced in 2012.
- The Government has therefore started to review the increased RtB discounts that were introduced in 2012. As part of that review, it is engaging with stakeholders, including councils and tenant groups.
- The outcomes of the review and the secondary legislation to make the changes will be announced in the Autumn.

- The Government believes that RtB is an important route for council housing tenants to be able to buy their own home, but it wants to achieve a better balance,
- The RtB has had a major impact on council housing stock, with many of the homes sold not replaced.
- The RtB has impacted in particular on the levels of social housing for Social Rent and it has also reduced the motivation and confidence of councils to build.

ARCH Tenants Conference:

This year's conference was held on Thursday 3 October at the AESSEAL New York Stadium in Rotherham

The conference was opened by Stella Parkin, ARCH Tenants Group Chair followed by a welcome address Sheila Cowen, Mayor of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

RSH UPDATE

Fleur Priest-Stephens, Tenant Engagement Manager, Regulator of Social Housing(RSH)

In this session Fleur an overview of the RSH's standards and approaches. Additionally, she gave update on the outcomes of the recent inspections.

ENSURING TENANT HEALTH AND SAFETY - BUILDING SAFETY REGULATOR(BSR) UPDATE

Andy McGrory, Policy Lead for Resident Engagement, Building Safety Regulator

Andy provided an update on:

- **Safety guidance for tenants living in high-rise residential buildings**
- **New fire safety guidance and recognising hazards in our homes**
- **Gas safety - Carbon monoxide awareness (how can tenants ensure their own safety and comply with the latest regulation, especially that we'll be in the heating season again in October)**
- **Other practical tips and guidance for council tenants**

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS – PRESENTATIONS

We were thrilled to see our own David Palmer win a Highly Commended award for his diligent work within his community

After lunch, we heard from Andy Lumb, Partnering Manager at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council about How councils are managing environmental factors

In this session, he focused on the strategies and practices used by the council to effectively manage environmental challenges and he touched on their approaches, technologies, and initiatives that are being utilized to address these issues and protect the community and its resources.

TALK 'N' TRAIN

We then had a moving presentation from Josh Robinson, Coach in Training, Hatton Boxing and Jordan Hart, Assistant Coach & Counsellor, Rotherham Federation.

Talk 'n' Train is a Rotherham-based community group established in 2020 to help combat mental health issues by supporting their community with their emotional and physical well-being. They provide free training, coaching, one-to-one support, and peer support groups. Rotherham Federation supports communities by building a sense of belonging, community pride, and spirit. They collaborate with grassroots

community groups and focus on supporting young people and vulnerable individuals.

In this presentation, we heard about the origins of their organisation, the story behind it, and details about the service.

TENANT PARTICIPATION

Our last presentation was from Louise Holt, Head of Membership Services, Tpas

Louise explored the evolving landscape of tenant engagement within Local Authorities and unpacked the potential impacts of the changing regulatory world on tenant engagement practices.

She covered what makes engagement successful through the lens of the newly updated 2024 Tpas National Engagement Standards and offered suggestions of actionable steps to enhance tenant engagement within Local Authorities.

(Conference slides are attached)