



Annual Assurance Statement

Basis of Assurance

The Management Committee confirms that, to the best of our knowledge we have reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Statement that Ochil View Housing Association Ltd is compliant with:

- ✓ all relevant regulatory requirements as set out in Section 3 of the Regulatory Framework;
- ✓ the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management;
- ✓ the relevant standards and outcomes of the Scottish Social Housing Charter;
- ✓ our statutory obligations in respect of tenant and resident safety, housing and homelessness and equalities and human rights.

This statement has been derived from a review of a comprehensive bank of evidence and from our ongoing quarterly reporting and evaluation and of the Associations performance throughout 2018/2019.

In assessing the evidence, we have adopted a continuous improvement approach which has resulted in the identification of a small number of non-material improvements in areas such as representative tenant engagement and the closer involvement of other service users which we aim to further improve during 2019/2020.

Accordingly, an Improvement Plan has been developed which will be progressed during the course of the year.

We have reviewed the identified actions in the improvement action plan and are satisfied that all are intended to deliver effective improvement and that none are material to our current compliance with the Regulatory Framework.

Process

Whilst the process commenced and ended with full approval of the Management Committee the Association established a Working Group consisting of Management Committee Members, including tenant representation, the Chief Executive and other members of the Senior Management Team which met on three occasions during September and October 2019.

The purpose of the Working Group was to fully oversee and evaluate a comprehensive bank of evidence which was produced by adopting the format of the SFHA Social Landlord Self – Assurance Toolkit.

The Working Group reviewed each of the regulatory requirements and standards and identified compliance and some non-material areas for improvement.

All Management Committee members have access to the full bank of evidence via the Associations secure electronic board papers “portal” which allows access at any time.

Gaining Assurance

The evidence which supports this Statement includes:

- ✓ Reports about performance in key areas including finance, service delivery, asset management, development and risk;
- ✓ Internal and External Audit reports;
- ✓ Advice from external and specialist advisers;
- ✓ Tenant consultation reports and outcomes;
- ✓ Data analysis about our tenants and service user satisfaction results;
- ✓ Benchmarking;
- ✓ Reports, advice and information from senior staff.

In reviewing the evidence and assessing compliance, we have also taken account of good practice advice we have obtained additional external assurance from our Internal Auditors that our approach is both effective and proportionate.

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit undertaken by Scott Moncrieff, which was specific to the Associations approach to the Annual Assurance Statement, concluded that:

We have gained assurance that, in general, Ochil View Housing Association ('Ochil View') complies with the requirements of the Scottish Housing Regulator's (SHR's) Regulatory Framework. However, we have identified a small number of areas where controls could be strengthened in order to ensure the Management Committee receives sufficient assurance of compliance to produce the Annual Assurance Statement.

These recommendations were approved and incorporated into our final assessment of assurance.

Ongoing Monitoring

We are assured that we have the necessary arrangements in place to identify any risks to compliance in the course of the conduct of our business and governance arrangements.

As indicated above a Working Group has been actively involved in the development and assessment of the evidence bank and the Associations Management Committee monitors regulatory and legal compliance on a regular and ongoing basis.

We also recognise that we are required to notify the Scottish Housing Regulator of any changes in our compliance during the year.

Authority to Sign and Submit

As Chairperson I was authorised by the Management Committee at a meeting held on 24th October 2019 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

I confirm that this Assurance Statement is being published on our website on the same date that it is submitted to the SHR.

Margaret Baxter (Chairperson)

Signed Date28.10.19.....