

Clydebank Housing Association worked hard to address some of the negative effects of the pandemic

Alongside their regular services, Clydebank Housing Association (CHA) has addressed some of the negative effects of the pandemic in their community. In May 2020, CHA was awarded £52,900 from the Scottish Government's Wellbeing Fund to deliver food parcels, ready meals, children's packed lunches, food for black and minority ethnic residents and on-line activity tutorials for children. Over the 15-week project more than 11,375 cooked ready meals, 2,146 food parcels, 2,400 kids' packed lunches, £1,800 of food for BAME groups and 1,100 kids' activity packs were distributed to people in need in the local community. This fund also provided £1,200 of Farmfoods vouchers for families to purchase essential items and provided £18,000 of funding to Strathclyde Autistic Society to provide 20 families with 1-2-1 support and respite during these very difficult times. The feedback that CHA has received has been overwhelming and it really demonstrates the current difficulties being faced by their tenants, residents and the community as a whole.

Sharon Keenan, Chief Executive, stated, *"We have been so overwhelmed by the response we have had to our Wellbeing project and delighted that so many tenants and members of the community have benefited throughout the pandemic and in particular during full lockdown."*

"These have been and still are difficult times for all and although our project has ended, CHA will continue to offer assistance and guidance to its residents and signpost to services whenever we can. We could never have achieved any of it without the support and assistance from our many volunteers and partners (Café81 and Centre81 Steering Group) and we thank them all so much for their unwavering and selfless commitment to the project and to the community."

Furthermore, during these difficult times, CHA's Centre81 facility remained open during the full lockdown period and offered the use of the main hall to the Northwest Food Bank to provide a foodbank service within Clydebank. Centre81 staff also contributed to the Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme to carry out 41 repairs, which helped people with essential bike maintenance, arranged online cookery classes and delivered grow bags and garden boxes for residents to grow their own produce.

Alongside running the Wellbeing Fund, CHA also ensured that all of their tenants received personal wellbeing calls offering support and signposting them to appropriate agencies for support. Through these calls, CHA organised 280 food parcels for their tenants, signposted tenants onto the West Dunbartonshire Council Crisis Team and even collected and delivered prescriptions.

With thanks to the generosity of their contractors and consultants, CHA was able to launch a Celebration Fund to help their residents recognise and celebrate special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries, which had been missed during these difficult times. CHA was delighted to distribute over 40 £20 vouchers to those who were nominated.

Photocall: n/a

Contact Details: Sinéad Farrell, Communications Officer, Clydebank Housing Association Ltd. Tel No. 0141 941 1044. E-mail: sinead@clydebank-ha.org.uk.

Notes to Editor:

N/A

