

Committee Housing Management & Almshouses Sub-Committee	Dated: 20 July 2020
Subject: City of London Almshouses Update	Public
Report of: Director of Community & Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Jacqueline Whitmore, Sheltered Housing Manager	

Summary

This report gives Members an information update on the City of London Almshouses, in Lambeth. Some of the information in the report also relates to the eight Gresham Almshouses on the estate.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. This report is presented to alternate meetings of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee, it updates Members on operational matters relating to the Almshouses and their residents.

Current Position

2. Waiting List

There are currently three vacancies at the Almshouses which officers anticipate offering once the Covid-19 regulations are eased. There have been requests for applications during the lockdown period which officers have been able to progress electronically in readiness for the office opening, to enable interviews with perspective residents to take place. Officers are keen to build a short waiting list again and look forward to seeing applicants for assessment.

3. Social activities

As the Community Hall is closed at present all plans for social activities have been suspended although we anticipate a party will be the first event to plan once we are able to do so.

4. Refurbishment Programme – Update

Negotiations with our contractor undertaking the refurbishment works, TSG are ongoing. Residents will be consulted regarding work recommencing on or around 1 August when government shielding restrictions/advice are due to end, with resident safety foremost in the plan to start works. Operatives will concentrate on exterior works and void properties, initially only undertaking internal works when residents are comfortable to allow operatives in their homes. Full protective measures will be taken, including risk assessments as required.

5. Resident welfare - Update

Throughout the period of 'lockdown' due to Covid 19, the Almshouses Manager has continued to work from her office supporting residents albeit in a different way to her normal routine. The Manager has maintained the daily checking routine and has increased contact via telephone and the monitoring system to the more vulnerable residents who may need more support, especially those with dementia. The Manager has identified residents with dementia have deteriorated more quickly than we would normally note; officers consider this is due to isolation and change in routine as social interaction, and routine are important to many with dementia.

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