

Committee	Dated:
Gresham (City Side) Committee	21 October 2016
Subject: Gresham Almshouses Update	Public
Report of: Director of Community & Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Jacqueline Whitmore, Sheltered Housing Manager	

Summary

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

Recommendation

- Trustees are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. This report is presented half yearly to the Trustees of the Gresham Almshouses. It updates Trustees on operational matters relating to the Gresham Almshouses and their residents and highlights any issues of concern, particularly where funding is required which is not included in the current year's budget

Current Position

2. Staff Development

Last June we employed a new scheme manager at Harman Close, Carl Newbold; as part of his training and development we have facilitated a swap in duties with Tracy Taylor the Almshouses Manager for a short period. Carl is currently undertaking a Diploma in Housing and it has been a good experience for him to manage Almshouses for a short time as there are some differences in tenure and the style of the estate. Carl has found this swap very helpful and has enjoyed his time at the Almshouses, which is nearing an end.

3. Social activities

Over the summer residents had a day trip to Hastings. Carl has started a coffee morning weekly but attendance was been sporadic however the inclusion of croissants tempted more residents to attend and officers will continue to offer different light refreshments at coffee mornings.

4. Estate meetings

Officers are continuing to work with Southwark Mediation Centre and all Almshouses residents. Recent discussions related to the use of the communal hall and residents who may be willing to become a key holder out of office hours to facilitate more use of the rooms.

5. Repairs

The Property Services Team Manager visited the estate in June July and September review work undertaken by contractors. This regular visiting and inspection has demonstrated an improved standard of work

6. Vacancies

There are no current vacancies. 1 Gresham was let in September 2016 after a lengthy refurbishment programme which included major repairs and kitchen replacement, the previous resident moved to residential care. Officers advertised the vacancy in the Square Mile however there were no applicants. An offer was made to a current City Almshouses resident who had expressed a wish to move to a Gresham home.

The decant of residents from the City of London sheltered estate Mais House is continuing with many residents expressing a preference to live at City of London Almshouses, (COLAT) all vacancies are offered to Mais House residents as a priority. Until all residents who have expressed a wish to move to the City of London Almshouses, have all been accommodated the main waiting list for COLAT will remain closed.

Jacqueline Whitmore
Sheltered Housing Manager

T: 020 7332 3582

E: Jacqueline.whitmore@cityoflondon.gov.uk