



Yvonne Davies

Anthony Collins
solicitors

Free seminar for smaller HA senior staff and/or Board Members

MEETING NEW REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

OVERVIEW

Date	Friday 14 th August 2015
Venue	Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP 134 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES
Organisers	Anthony Collins Solicitors, Scrutiny and Empowerment Partners Ltd with support from the NHF and Alpha Homes
Registration	Please click here to register
Directions	www.anthonycollins.com/contact-us/maps-and-directions

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

The seminar will explore recent key changes in governance and regulatory expectations and upcoming changes to the policy landscape and how these affect the role and expectations of your Board.

2015 has already been a year of huge changes in the sector, including:

- the implementation of the new Governance and Financial Viability Standard, together with its accompanying Code of Practice, and the new Rent Standard;
- an increase in more “muscular” regulation by the Regulator, with more downgrades being issued;
- the introduction of a new NHF Code of Governance, to align with the requirements of the new Governance and Financial Viability Standard; and
- increased focus by the Regulator on the need to meet the Value for Money (“VFM”) Standard.

The election of a majority Conservative Government also means that there are likely to be huge changes to your operating environment arising from changes to the Right to Buy, welfare benefit cuts, new controls around the eviction of illegal immigrants and proposed local devolution.

We propose to look at these changes in a practical way, designed to help smaller registered providers understand how they may be affected and what they need to be doing to react to, and pre-empt, such issues.



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In particular, we will look at:

- changes under the new Regulatory Framework, including the need to put in place assets and liabilities registers and the new emphasis on risk, and what your organisation should be looking to implement;
- what makes an effective Board;
- what's new in the 2015 NHF Code of Governance;
- the changing policy landscape, with a "state of the nation address" from the NHF;
- the heightened expectations on VFM and Graeme Foster will share his experience of developing his first VFM strategy and statement.

SPEAKERS

Yvonne Davies is an independent consultant, mentor and trainer at Scrutiny and Empowerment Partners Limited, set up just over 4 years ago to help Housing Boards, staff and their customers to comply with requirements, develop and sustain excellent services. She specialises in governance and regulatory reviews of compliance and related policies, Board appraisal, governance effectiveness reviews, Board skills audits, service review, inspection and renewal, value for money assessments, risk management; tenant scrutiny and tenant empowerment, improved complaint and dispute resolution, and service improvements.

Gemma Bell is a senior associate at Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP. She specialises in governance and strategic advice for registered providers of social housing, ALMOs, social enterprises, local authorities and charities. She regularly provides governance training to third sector organisations and is experienced in incorporating a variety of legal structures, advising on charitable conversions and establishing and collapsing group structures. Gemma recently contributed to the publication of the National Housing Federation's model rules 2015.

Henrietta Brealey is the Acting External Affairs Manager for the West Midlands for the National Housing Federation. She is a Trustee of the Birmingham based charity W.A.I.T.S.

Graeme Foster became the Chief Executive of Alpha Homes, a specialist provider of accommodation for older people, in October 2014. Before this, Graeme was Senior Regulation Manager at the Homes and Communities Agency and Assistant Director Tenant Excellence at the TSA. With a passion for service improvement, Graeme has also worked for the Audit Commission as Lead Housing Inspector and held a variety of posts in local authorities and housing associations. As a lifelong supporter of Everton Football Club, he also knows what it is like to suffer.



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PROGRAMME

9.30am Registration and refreshments

10.00am The New Regulatory Framework and what it means for smaller registered providers

Yvonne Davies, Scrutiny and Empowerment partners Ltd
Gemma Bell, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

Yvonne and Gemma will discuss the drivers behind the new Regulatory Framework and the key changes it introduces, including:

- the new focus on Board skills;
- the emphasis on risk, stress testing and mitigation strategies; and
- the new requirement to put in place asset and liabilities registers

...together with implications for smaller registered providers.

11.00am Morning Break and Refreshments

11.15am “The State of the Nation”

Henrietta Brealey, External Affairs Manager, West Midlands for the NHF

Henrietta will talk us through the current political climate for housing, concentrating on housing associations and discuss the changes and new requirements from the 2012 to the 2015 NHF Code of Governance.

12.00pm Lunch and networking

12.30pm “What is an effective Board?”

Yvonne Davies, Scrutiny and Empowerment partners Ltd
Gemma Bell, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

Yvonne will discuss the increased emphasis and an approach you might like to adopt on skills audits, succession planning and Board effectiveness in Governance reviews

Gemma will discuss risk and the role of the company secretary and what this means for your organisation.

1.30pm “Value for Money and smaller providers”

Graeme Foster, CEO at Alpha Homes

Graeme will share his experiences of carrying out a review of Value-for-Money statements for a group of smaller providers in the North West. Graeme was a HCA strategic regulator until October 2014 and will



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attend the conference to share his experience as a new CEO meeting the VFM requirements.

2.00pm **Question and answer session**

2.30pm **Thanks and close**

2.30pm **Optional – surgery on AGM issues – please bring any burning questions about holding AGMs for Yvonne and Gemma to answer**