

# NIFHA NEWS

## NIFHA Training Workshops



A massive thank you to Colum Jordan and David Toney from Staysafe Systems for two great workshops held at the NIFHA offices this week on Lone Worker Safety and Functional Breathing/Stress Management. The sessions included some great tips and good practice guidance.

**In partnership with:**





## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & ASSET MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE



The **NIFHA Housing Development and Asset Management Conference** returned in January to a fantastic line-up of speakers, including Joao Goncalves from Housing Europe, Michael Gordon, Senior Director at Turley and Shaun Thomas from NatWest Bank.

The presentations explored a range of topics including how our sector needs to design, build, and retrofit homes for the future, health and safety issues within homes, as well as construction sector labour challenges. Also discussed was tackling damp and mould issues, bringing our tenants along with us on our asset management journeys, how efficient heating can be designed as a material first priority, and meeting net zero targets, and the issues for productive community planning.

**Thanks again to all our sponsors, speakers, panellists, exhibitors and delegates who made it such an informative and engaging day!**

# Four Federation Engagement

**NIFHA colleagues Seamus Leheny and Tracey Ellis travelled to London earlier this month to meet with the National Housing Federation, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and Community Housing Cymru as part of the Four-Federations Group.**

The discussions were wide reaching and included -

- Key current issues from each organisation.
- General Election Campaign planning.
- Housing Workforce professionalisation.
- Opportunities for collaborate working.



**This was an excellent opportunity to share ideas and experiences and plan for future collaboration!**

**GOOD  
LUCK**

Fingers crossed for all the entrants for the **CIH All-Ireland Housing Awards** on the 14th March, in Mansion House Dublin.

NIFHA and our partners are finalists in:

- **Excellence in communications**
- **Excellence in tenant financial wellbeing**



# Under The Roof

Special Feature with:



## BUILDING HOMES, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Nestled in the heart of Northern Ireland, Ark Housing stands out not just for its impressive developments, but for the vibrant communities it fosters within them. Driven by a mission to "build quality homes and strong communities," Ark has carved a unique path in the housing sector, prioritizing tenant participation, community collaboration, and impactful social initiatives.

With a portfolio nearing **1,000** homes, Ark is poised for ambitious growth. This isn't just about building homes, it's about advancing a sense of belonging. Ark's secret weapon? Harmony. Each department, from development teams crafting energy-efficient architectural gems to property services ensuring their meticulous upkeep, operates in seamless collaboration. This translates to not only high-quality housing, but also to the most cherished metric – high tenant satisfaction.



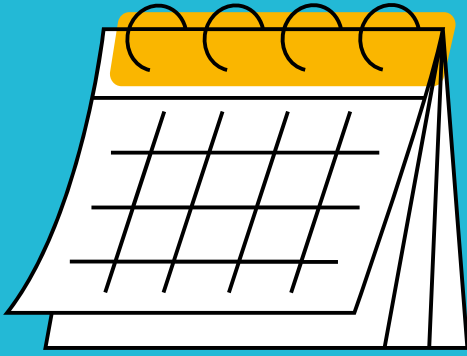
But Ark's vision extends far beyond individual homes. They act as a bridge, collaborating with other housing associations and community partners through their Community Investment team. Initiatives like the "Listen Up" video tackling youth suicide showcase their dedication to addressing pressing social issues, while the Newtownards Community FUNd empowers local groups, amplifying the community spirit.

Empowering residents sits at the core of Ark's philosophy. They believe in tenant participation, encouraging residents to actively shape their living spaces and fostering a sense of belonging within the Ark family. This commitment extends beyond individual homes, with Ark actively promoting community development, creating a sense of shared purpose and connection.

Innovation shines brightly in Ark's "Floating Support Service," a groundbreaking programme that extends support beyond traditional hostel settings, reaching families across the greater Belfast area. This exemplifies Ark's dedication to finding creative solutions to complex social challenges.

The driving force behind this remarkable journey is a dedicated team of housing professionals led by a visionary and ambitious leadership. Their combined expertise ensures that Ark remains a progressive and efficient housing association, setting new standards for tenant participation, community development, and high-quality housing.

Ark Housing's story is one of hope, collaboration, and unwavering dedication. It's a testament to the power of building not just homes, but thriving communities, where individuals and families can flourish. As they continue to break ground, both literally and figuratively, Ark Housing promises an even brighter future, not just for its tenants, but for the entire housing sector.



# SAVE THE DATE

**NIFHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024**



Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen

17th & 18th October 2024

Click [HERE](#) to book

## Policy Consultations



Ongoing Consultations:

Department of Communities & Department of Justice Consultation on:

**Proposals to Amend the Legislation to Help Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour**



For a look at previous NIFHA consultation responses,  
click [here](#)



Image: Anita Conway and Seamus Leheny

### Local Council Engagement

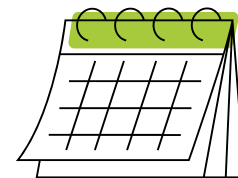
This month, NIFHA Chief Executive Seamus Leheny along with Radius Housing Director of Development Anita Conway gave a presentation to Councillors at **Newry, Mourne & Down District Council** on what Housing Associations are delivering within the council area, the social and economic benefits being delivered and the challenges faced in delivering homes and services.

The session concluded with a very engaging and informative Q&A with councillors learning about the benefits of Housing Associations, their remit and barriers encountered. The big topics of interest were rural housing provision, maintenance, SHDP budget, SP provision and infrastructure provision.

Visit the NIFHA website for job and tender opportunities in the sector.



# Looking Ahead



6th March - **Housing Ireland Conference** - Croke Park Stadium, Dublin

12th March - **NIFHA Leadership and Governance Forum** - Online

12th March - **NIFHA Presentation to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council** -  
Antrim Civic Centre, Antrim

12th March - **NIFHA Comms Forum** - Online

13th March - **NIFHA Board Meeting** - Online

13th March - **NIFHA Health and Housing Forum** - Malone House, Belfast

14th March - **CIH All-Ireland Housing Awards** - Mansion House, Dublin

20th March - **Agenda NI Housing Conference** - Europa Hotel, Belfast

27th March - **NIFHA Finance Forum** - Online



For regular updates from NIFHA, connect with us on our socials or click [HERE](#) to visit our website.

