

NIFHA NEWS



**NIFHA CEO,
Seamus Leheny
giving evidence to
the NI Assembly
Communities
Committee**



The ongoing increase in demand for social and affordable housing, uncertain budgets, lack of suitable land and delays in planning are creating the perfect storm for the provision of social housing in Northern Ireland, which if not addressed will result in the stagnation of efforts to tackle waiting lists - the message from NIFHA CEO Seamus Leheny to the NI Assembly Communities Committee.

With over 46,000 applicants currently on the social housing waiting list, and the budget for new builds vastly reduced, NIFHA have called for drastic action from the NI Executive to tackle the housing crisis.

See more information [here](#)

Out
&
About



NIFHA were delighted to host Hilary Benn MP alongside the Chartered Institute of Housing NI and Clanmil Housing Association at Cedar Court in Newtownabbey.



A positive roundtable discussion was held on funding, infrastructure, and retrofit as well as the positive community work undertaken by Housing Associations across NI.



NIFHA hosted a new working group comprised of representatives from the PSNI and Housing Associations to discuss areas of common interest, including information sharing and addressing anti-social behaviour. We look forward to continued collaborative working.

NIFHA were delighted to welcome **Housing Rights NI** to our office for a meeting with some of our members to discuss common areas of work and building on collaboration across the sector for the benefit of all tenants.



We had a wonderful visit at an **Abbeyfield & Wesley Supported Sheltered House** in Ballymena. With family-style living for over 65s, it offers more support than traditional sheltered housing. Helen was very kind showing us around, and Margaret had us spoiled with her beautiful baked goods.



Housing Associations take their responsibilities on sustainability and playing a part in tackling the climate crisis seriously. From new build and retrofitting, to community development and capacity building for staff and tenants, there are a range of projects right across NI which showcase the direct action being taken by them.

NIFHA Goes Green Campaign will celebrate this work over the month of May, and highlight the steps Housing Associations are taking to change behaviours which play a part in protecting the environment and promoting sustainability.



Want to get involved? Contact amcclelland@nifha.org



Housing Rights to expand and continue services for young people.

Housing Rights for Young People is a specialist support service from Housing Rights. It aims to help young people between 18 to 24 years old with housing problems. The service was recently awarded funding from The National Lottery Community Fund that will help expand and continue the service for the next four years. The service provides advice, advocacy, mediation and training for young people. It will help young people to improve their housing situation, give them skills and knowledge they need for the future, help improve their relationships within the community, and improve their health and wellbeing.

As well as core areas of advice and advocacy, Housing Rights also aims to include young people with lived experience in participation work through:

- developing a reference group to allow young people to feed into the delivery of services
- putting young people at the forefront of helping to design and deliver a peer training model

This will give them access to information so they know their rights, and where to look for help. They will then in turn be able to help their peers who might have housing problems. It's also hoped this will improve their confidence and employability skills. And, the service will also aim to identify work placements within the organisation for young people.

Furthermore, specialist housing mediators will help young people to resolve disputes around their housing situation.

To find out more visit housingrights.org.uk



NIFHA are proud to stand with friends from the sector as part of The Cliff Edge Coalition to call for the removal of the two-child limit.

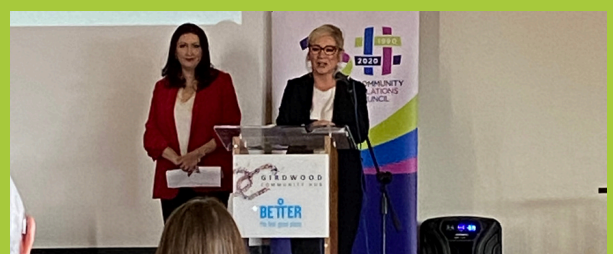
Find more information [here](#)

Good Relations Week

16th - 22nd Sept 2024

This year's theme is 'OpportUNITY' and is a call to action to create a brighter, inclusive future for all.

We at NIFHA are excited to see all the events you have planned! See [here](#) for further information and to get involved!





AKTIVORA

Associates
Spotlight

NIFHA Associate, Aktivora, recently attended the NIFHA Development & Asset Management Conference and were pleased to have the opportunity to showcase their **AKTIVORA BLACK MOULD Solution** - "The Ultimate Defence Against *Stachybotrys Chartarum*". *Stachybotrys Chartarum*, commonly known as 'Black Mould,' is a persistent issue in damp or water-damaged properties, often associated with adverse health effects.

Mark Forsythe from AKTIVORA states: "Our **BLACK MOULD Solution**, is a highly effective, non-toxic, eco-friendly, and biodegradable spray, and is here to eradicate this menace".

Aktivora are keen to work with local housing associations, to offer a 'trial supply' of their product so they can, in Mark's words, "say goodbye to the strong, musty smell and the slimy appearance of Black Mould that thrives in lowly lit and non-ventilated areas, such as bathrooms, kitchens, pipes, and cellars".

Whilst black mould is not a widespread problem across housing association properties, it can unfortunately occur where there are high condensation issues or structural dampness, and when it does occur it can be an unpleasant feature for tenants and landlords to tackle.

To take part in Aktivora trial contact mark@aktivoraireland.com

Volunteering Opportunity

Flourish's aim is to create a brighter future for every individual affected by human trafficking. by providing long term, tailored, survivor centred support that helps clients overcome trauma and to rebuild their lives. .

We have lots of events happening and are always looking for a helping hand with things like logistics, catering, greeting people and such. It's good fun and really essential to support the work that Flourish does! If you'd like to learn more of sign up, please contact

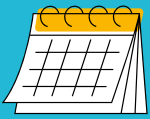
info@flourishni.org



10 Years Anniversary
Celebration
Afternoon Tea

You are invited to celebrate with us!
18th May | 2:30pm | £20 pp | 10 Belmont Rd, BT4 2AN
Contact lisa-marie@flourishni.org to reserve

FLOURISH
a brighter future



SAVE THE DATE

**NIFHA ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**
Lough Erne Resort

17th & 18th October
2024

**NIFHA FINANCE
CONFERENCE**
La Mon Hotel

5th December 2024

**NIFHA DEVELOPMENT &
ASSET MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE**
St. Comgalls

13th February 2025

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

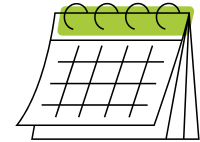


Policy Consultations



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

Looking Ahead



14th May - **NIFHA Comms Forum** - Online

16th May - **NIFHA Business Committee** - Online

21st May - **Launch of the NIFHA Strategy** - Stormont

22nd May - **NIFHA Leadership & Governance Conference** - Clifton House

[For more information on any of the meetings above, please contact \[amcclelland@nifha.org\]\(mailto:amcclelland@nifha.org\)](#)



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

