



Glasgow and West of Scotland
Forum of Housing Associations

Keep it Local!

GWSF Summer Regeneration Conference

Friday 19th June 2026, 9.15am – 3.40pm
Roystonhill Community Hub

'CBHAs and the Power of Partnership Working.'

Community Based Housing Associations (CBHAs) have a long history of working with a diverse range of partners both at grass-roots level within their communities and outwith. CBHAs' holistic approach has always been focused on continuing to improve local physical, social, and economic environments and ultimately the lives of tenants and other local people.

Successful partnership working underpins all of this work and comprises a long list of key partners, including: local people and local community groups; other CBHAs; third sector organizations; local authorities and Health and Social Care Partnerships; the NHS; schools; churches; and the police. This list is not exhaustive, and we know that there are many others out there!

The conference will highlight some excellent examples of partnership working and consider the crucial issues around what constitutes the key ingredients of effective partnerships. It will also provide an opportunity to reflect on the wider operating environment in relation to the increased pressures on both housing associations and tenants which makes partnership working more important than ever.

Delegates will hear from a great lineup of plenary speakers, and as always, our ever-popular café sessions will feature Forum members talking about their associations' activities and projects alongside partners.

9.15 - 9.45 Registration and tea/coffee & morning rolls

Morning Plenary

9.50 - 10.00 Introduction – John F Hamilton, Chair, GWSF

Welcome to the conference and overview of the day

10.00 – 10.30 Colleen Rowan, Research & Policy Lead, GWSF

Colleen will share recent feedback from members which provides an up-to-date picture of their partnership working activities, with a particular focus on collaboration *between* CBHAs. The session will highlight successful projects and service sharing initiatives, whilst also considering key challenges into the future.

10.30 – 11.00 Eve Young, Senior Housing Options Broker, Housing Options Scotland & Jenn Cloughley, Occupational Therapist, NHSGCC

This session will focus on the award-winning '*Hospital to Home*' project which provides – housing support for Queen Elizabeth National Spinal Injuries patients. The project is delivered by Housing Options Scotland in partnership with The Queen Elizabeth National Spinal Injuries Unit and works with landlords in the Social Rented Sector (and others) to access suitable housing which can accommodate the specific needs of these patients.

11.00 – 11.30 Jamie Mallan, Interim Factoring Manager, Reidvale HA & Chris Halliday, Director of Operations, The Halliday Foundation

In this session, Jamie and Chris will share how Reidvale Housing Association and The Halliday Foundation worked in partnership, to re-establish the Reidvale Neighbourhood Centre and shape its future through an open, evidence-led process to identify a long-term leaseholder. The session will reflect on how transparency can build trust, support stronger partnerships and lead to more sustainable, community-led outcomes. It will also highlight key steps in the process, alongside honest lessons learned and practical insights that can be applied in other settings.

11.30 - 12.00 Morning break

12.00 – 1.30 Café sessions

Delegates will attend the 3 café sessions they have pre-selected.

1.30 – 2.30 Lunch

Afternoon Plenary

2.30 – 3.05 Panel session led by Maureen Merrick, Operations Manager (West), Working Rite and featuring young people and contractors who have participated in the programme.

This session will focus on Working Rite's *Change That Works* delivery model, exploring how they collaborate with CBHA partners, (who are crucial to the process), and local contractors. It will highlight how these powerful partnerships support young people and local employers within our communities, helping them achieve success and create positive outcomes. Attendees will also hear first-hand from young people who have benefited from the programme and progressed into paid employment. They will share their experiences and the impact the programme has had on their careers.

3.05 – 3.35 Aileen Carson, Neurodiversity Coach & Trainer

We know that CBHAs are seeking to improve their knowledge and understanding of neurodiversity and to reflect this in their working practices to support neurodivergent staff members and tenants alike. Aileen is a former housing professional and now delivers neurodiversity training sessions for organizations and provides coaching for individuals. She will provide an overview of neurodiversity, including the strengths and challenges of different neurotypes, as well as some tips on neuroinclusion, that will benefit everyone.

3.35 – 3.40 John F Hamilton, Chair, GWSF

Round-up of the day & conference close

Café Sessions

12 - 1.30pm

1 Cunninghame HA – Cunninghame Furniture Recycling Company

Speaker – Jennifer McCann, Executive Director of Housing & Communities

Cunninghame Furniture Recycling Company (CFRC) is a social enterprise working to reduce waste, protect the environment, and support local communities across Ayrshire and surrounding areas. The cafe session will showcase their work and share an overview of CRFC's pioneering mattress cleaning project which promotes sustainability and reduces landfill waste. The session will also highlight the crucial role they play in relation to employability and partnership working.

2 Career Ready

Speakers – Leanna Sinclair, & Caroline Sellar, Career Ready and Jack Devlin & Lynne McGeachan, Clydebank HA.

Career Ready is a social mobility charity which supports and empowers young people, aged 15-18 across Scotland, who because of their background don't have access to the opportunities or support they need to prosper in work and life. Through Career Ready's 18-month internship and mentoring programme via partnerships with 300+ employers and 160 secondary schools across Scotland, young people in S5, who face socio-economic barriers, get the opportunity to develop their skills, confidence, and the networks they need to have a great future – one they can't imagine right now. Career Ready already works with some of our members (who have nothing but good things to say!) and attendees will hear from Jack and Lynne who are already signed up as mentors. And Leanna and Caroline will talk about how things work in practice and why they are keen to partner with more CBHAs.

3 Elderpark HA

Speaker – Jonathan Giddings-Reid, Community Regeneration Officer

Jonathan's café session will offer a smorgasbord selection of some of the various strands of partnership working which Elderpark is currently involved in. These include – working with other housing associations on projects for young people and on neurodiversity. In addition, he will talk about knowledge-exchange work even further afield, with housing associations and other housing bodies in Canada.

4 Rutherglen & Cambuslang/West of Scotland HAs

Speakers -Angela Spence, CEO, Rutherglen & Cambuslang HA & Robert Campbell, Director of Housing & Community Services, WSHA

Rutherglen & Cambuslang Housing Association, Willowacre Trust and West of Scotland Housing Association are celebrating a new partnership between the 3 organisations that will see support and advice provision for tenants expanded across their areas of operation via the new Advice in Accessible Settings project, funded through Advice UK. The session will focus on the principles which were the foundation for setting up the partnership, and how this was achieved in practice. It will also offer some valuable reflections on the process and consider how combining experience, local knowledge and shared values, means they are able to extend practical support to families who need it most, in a way that is accessible and locally-rooted.

5 Spire View HA

Speaker – Gillian Spence, Corporate Governance Manager

Gillian will share the story of Roystonhill Community Hub, owned and managed by Spire View HA, since it opened its doors in November 2019. That story includes the vital role the Hub played in supporting the local community through the Covid years, and beyond. The Hub has continued to flourish and is the 'beating heart' of the community providing a range of activities and services which are well-used by tenants and other community members. Gillian will talk about the lessons learned along the way, successes and challenges, funding opportunities and partners, and aspirations for the future.

