

# Welcome

## an Introduction to your Area Panels

**Did you know that there is a way to get involved in how East North East Homes Leeds works and have a say in what happens in your neighbourhood? The four Area Panels (Inner East, Inner North East, Outer East and Outer North East) keep an eye on tenant satisfaction levels, support resident involvement and influence service delivery in housing and tenancy management, repairs and lettings.**

It's not just about monitoring performance – each Area Panel has its own budget to spend and residents can suggest ideas for environmental and community schemes which they think would be positive for their neighbourhoods.

These schemes have previously included gardening work, community seating areas, new recycling facilities and many more. The ideas are approved or rejected by the Panel members themselves, so this is a fantastic way for tenants and residents to make their voices heard and influence what happens locally.

### Some of the Schemes the Panel have been responsible for...



■ Community gardens and planting...



■ Community Centre refurbishments...



■ New recycling centre...



■ Community Clean-ups...



■ New seating areas...

Now turn the page to meet your Area Panel and find out a little more about the Chairs...

## Meet the Panel Inner East Area Panel



■ front row: Mary Moon and Joyce Gottbreht, back row: Cllr Kamila Maqsood, Sam Leigh, Hash Taylor, Elaine Brown and Jim Ojelade. And missing from the picture: Denise Cariss, Andrew Wasike, Ruksana Bibi, Peter Exley and Cllr Ralph Pryke.

### A word from the Chair... **Mary Moon**

#### **What difference does your Panel make?**

Our panel are voices of the tenants to and from the Board, we help to make people's day to day living the best it can be. We monitor Company performance to ensure services are delivered where they are needed and look to improve these services year on year.

#### **Tell us the goals for your Panel for the year ahead?**

We want to bring communities together as one and promote involvement among hard to reach people. We want to work with youth and schools, finding ways of working with families and building on past successes. We aim to encourage healthy living through outdoor activities and gardening for food and pleasure. We want safer, cleaner, environmentally friendly places to live.

#### **What made you want to get involved?**

About 16 years ago due to a change in my personal life I found myself in a council flat in Gipton (I was very glad of it at the time). It was like going back to my childhood with litter, graffiti and 'not my job missis' attitudes!

I decided to take the bull by the horns and joined the existing tenants' association who for years had been the voice of our community. When we changed to the ALMOs it opened up a whole new chapter - people listened and encouraged our views. I joined focus groups and worked closely with staff and tenants; because I was treated with respect at all times I felt a valued member of society again. One of my strong points as a Panel member is that I have seen both sides of the story in terms of housing conditions and am aware of the problems which can arise in a variety of areas.

#### **Do you have an interesting hobby?**

Not really as I'm no longer able to work with my hands - I eat too much, talk too much, spend lots of time with my immediate family and wear lots of different hats in our community. There are never enough hours in the day for me.

## Meet the Panel Inner North East Area Panel



■ front row: Carol Bennett, Karen Wray, Karen Holder-Benjamin, back row: Nigel Deacon, Malachy Doherty and Noel Hallis. And missing from the picture: Cllr Ghulam Hussain, Cllr Valerie Kendall, Ruth Vollans, Ita Thomas, Terence Norford and Barbara Burns.

### A word from the Chair... **Karen Wray**

#### **What difference does your Panel make?**

Our panel gives the local areas a voice on what changes would make where live a better place which is the motto of the company. It helps identify to the company problems that are happening and assist to develop ideas on how to make improvements.

#### **Tell us the goals for your Panel for the year ahead?**

Our goals for the coming year is to be involved in environmental projects and enhance community safety. Manage the performance of the company.

#### **What made you want to get involved?**

Customers complain about what the company is not doing, I wanted to gain an understanding how the company operates and delivers services to customers to make improvements.

#### **Tell us what skills you bring to the panel...**

Good communication skills, working within the NHS the understanding of how changes have to be made in accordance with changes lead by the government.

#### **Do you have an interesting hobby?**

Watching Rugby League Football.

**A full list and ID photographs of all Panel Members can be found on the ENEHL website under Area Panel. Visit [www.enehl.org.uk](http://www.enehl.org.uk).**

## Meet the Panel Outer East Area Panel



■ front row: Andy Cowans and Gina Morrison, back row: Peter Thorpe, Angela Storey, Rodney Manners and Tom Clarke. And missing from the picture: Cllr Vonnie Morgan and Cllr Mick Lyons.

### A word from the Chair... Gina Morrison

#### What difference does your Panel make?

The panel adds value to the community by funding environmental improvements, funding local groups, and scrutinising the performance of the Almo.

#### Tell us the goals for your Panel for the year ahead?

Our main aim is to make more residents aware of the benefits the panel can bring to their areas, whilst continuing with the above core aims.

#### What made you want to get involved?

I became involved after moving into the area and realising how neglected it appeared – having to bring my children up in East Leeds, I wanted to make a difference for them.

#### Tell us what skills you bring to the panel...

My skills are in administration and communication, and I also have a passion for equality, in that people who live in social housing should have the same rights and privileges as those in private.

#### Do you have an interesting hobby?

I've got a husband, 4 children, 2 mad dogs, a neurotic cat and a hamster that thinks it's Steve McQueen in *The Great Escape* – I'd love to have time for a hobby!

Due to a move to another area, Gina Morrison has now resigned from the Panel. Gina says *'I have enjoyed my time on the Panel and feel it has given me a great deal of confidence. Anyone wanting to do more in their area should take the time to get involved, it really can make a difference. I'm proud of the achievements of the Panel and the improvements we've made together.'*

**The Panel say farewell and thank Gina for the contribution she has made. At the time of going to print a new Chair was still to be elected.**

## Meet the Panel Outer North East Area Panel



■ front row: Jo Hourigan and Geraldine Hemingway, back row: Cllr Gerald Wilkinson, Terry Searle, David Waterhouse and Keith Newsome. And missing from the picture: Cllr Ronnie Feldman.

### A word from the Chair... Jo Hourigan

#### What difference does your Panel make?

Hopefully tenants will agree that this panel makes a significant difference. We do a lot of Community Projects which are really appreciated by those TRA groups involved in them and these have enhanced the lives of tenants and communities. We monitor performance data to drive changes that will result in improvements to processes like the Capital Programme and the way repairs are handled.

#### Tell us the goals for your Panel for the year ahead?

A) To complete the current partially completed Groundworks initiatives. B) To be even more pro-active within the organisation and ensure that we are driving changes to existing processes to improve tenants lives and safety. C) To work with young people to address the shortfall in activities. We plan to actively to fund an education / training / reward scheme for a small number of local youngsters so that they can then go out into their communities and become 'Young Leaders' who will impact positively on their peers. D) To work with the elderly helping to provide IT resources and recreational activities that promote health and fitness. E) To work on a new project to engage in local partnerships to help bring fuller information and enable access to information for vulnerable persons (elderly, disabled, etc.).

#### What made you want to get involved?

Tell us what skills you bring to the panel ... I got involved 9 years ago because I was already offering voluntary help to the elderly and disabled in my community. Helping them to fill in forms or write letters etc.

#### Tell us what skills you bring to the panel...

The skills that I bring are those of being an experienced business person (accountant). I also believe in showing full commitment and giving enough time to see projects through to a good outcome where possible.

#### Do you have an interesting hobby?

I have several hobbies. I love my garden which is looking sad at the moment but hopefully will be lovely again as soon as spring comes along. I also like playing scrabble on facebook.

# Did you know...

- Panel members don't have to have any previous experience of committee work to join – they just have to care about the areas they live in and want to contribute to making them better. There is a full training programme in place to make sure Panel members are effective and comfortable in their roles.
- The Panels are tenant-led and every year each Panel sets out its objectives and budget requirements for the coming months so that ENEHL is aware of what developments local people want to see in their communities.
- We will be recruiting new Area Panel members in June 2011 – more information will be available through the website nearer the time - [http://www.enehl.org.uk/Home/Get\\_Involved/Area\\_Panels.aspx](http://www.enehl.org.uk/Home/Get_Involved/Area_Panels.aspx) and in the June edition of Your Home.
- Panel meetings are open to the public, so if you would like to get a flavour of how they operate, please come along to the next meeting in your area! The dates for the coming meetings are as follows:

**Inner East**

**7 April, 19 May and 30 June @ 6pm at Tribeca House**

**Inner North East**

**26 April and 7 June @ 6pm at Tribeca House**

**Outer East**

**20 April and 1 June @ 6pm at Parkway Grange Community Room**

**Outer North East**

**5 April and 1 June @ 1pm at Tribeca House**



■ Community Gardens...



■ Hallfield Notice Board...



■ New Fencing and Tarmac...



■ Planting bulbs at Fieldhouse Drive...



■ Potternewton trip to Bridlington funded by the Panel...



■ Thorner Primary School - Panel Funded Planters...



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