

PAISLEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION JUNE 2023 BULLETIN



Summer is here, and so is another Bulletin

We are delighted to bring you another Bulletin, which is full of details on what we have been up to over the last few months and information which may be useful to you.

We hope our tenants have been enjoying the good weather and have been able to get outside.

As the school holidays start, many of you will be trying to get on a holiday or making use of the long daylight hours outside, when doing so we would ask that you are mindful of your neighbours, so that everyone can enjoy the summer in their own way!

Paisley HA welcome Scottish Housing Regulator

Paisley HA welcomed staff from the Scottish Housing Regulator in May to carry out an Assurance visit. The purpose of the visit was to examine our tenant safety and data collection processes. The Regulator was also looking for examples of good practice to share with the wider housing sector.

The visit went well with detailed discussion on both these areas and an opportunity for joint learning between PHA and SHR. Overall the SHR was impressed by our approach particularly in Tenant Safety and didn't find any areas of concern.

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Changes to Paisley HA Board

It's all change at the top for PHA.

Ian Johnstone, Chairperson

Our Chairperson since 2018, stood down as he will have served 5 years in this office-bearing role. Ian fully intends to remain on the Board of PHA and has enjoyed his tenure in the hot seat.

Ian said

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chairperson and found the role of Chairperson deeply rewarding."

Ian has been succeeded by Karen McMillan a long-standing Board member of PHA.

Jim Weir, Vice Chairperson

Jim has retired from the Board due to ill health. Jim is also a long-standing Board member of PHA and has served on our Board since 2000. Jim served as Chairperson from 2008 to 2013 and Vice Chairperson from 2013 to 2023.

Ian Johnstone said "Jim Weir was one of PHA's strongest supporters and his guidance and encouragement over the years when I was Chairperson was invaluable".



Kathleen McCutcheon, Chief Executive said

"Jim was always positive and helpful to me in my role. Jim was a trusted and loyal Board member and his insight was of great value when we were considering the best interests of the Association. I don't think anyone knows more about the local community than Jim. We will miss him."

Karen McMillan, Chairperson said:

On behalf of the Board of Paisley Housing Association, I would like to thank Jim for his many years (indeed decades!), dedicated to our Association and the wider housing movement as a whole. Jim is retiring from the Board and will be missed by us all.

Jim has represented our Association and tenants on many other bodies to help your voices and concerns be heard. Jim has supported and mentored new members to the Board and has always had time to spend answering questions, no matter how daft. What people may not realise is that Jim's time is unpaid and all the stellar work he has done is entirely voluntary, in-between running a business and supporting his family. We wish you well for the future and thank you once again for your contribution to our Association.

Images to left, clockwise from top left:

Ian Johnstone, Karen McMillan and Jim Weir

Paisley HA contract creates new apprenticeships

Paisley HA works with lots of local contractors and because of this the work we do improving our Housing Stock benefits the whole community.

Because of our investment in our stock, one of our contractors JS McColl has been able to employ 3 new apprentices. All the apprentices live in Paisley and are thriving in their new role.

This is a great example of how the work we do can benefit the whole of Paisley, by providing opportunities for young people to develop their skills and experience.



Paisley HA in funding success

Hot of the press, this week. Paisley HA has been successful in securing £42,000 of additional funding to provide advice services. Which will allow us to deliver additional Benefits, Energy and Debt Advice in partnership with Williamsburgh HA and Renfrewshire CAB.

This is thanks to the Scottish Government and Advice UK.

Garden Service Update

As you may recall, we had to terminate the contract we had in place with Idverde at the end of April, as they were unable to fulfil the terms of the contract. We reacted as quickly as possible to put a temporary arrangement in place, with two local contractors to carry out the work over the next couple of months, while we work on a long term solution.

Tenemental properties

LDA Contracts are carrying out grass cutting to all closes on our service. All closes have now received their first cut

Main Door Properties

Paisley Landscape Services are carrying out grass cutting to all main door properties on our service. All main door properties have received their first cut.

Both temporary contractors will continue to carry out our grass cutting service with cuts being done approximately every 3 weeks until the long term contractor is in place. Work on hedges will be delayed until our new contractor is in place.

We are working hard to get a new contractor as quickly as possible and hope to achieve this by August. We will provide further information on this as soon as we can.

Our main priorities for now are ensuring a service is provided while looking to get best value for money and appointing a permanent contractor as soon as we can. We will review our financial position and the impact this has had on the service to our tenants at the end of the cutting season later in the year.

We will continue to keep you updated on our progress with appointing a new long term contractor.

New Council Permit for Garden Waste Collections

From 10 July 2023, you will need a garden waste permit if you would like the council to collect your garden waste. You can continue to use your brown bin for food waste as normal.

The permit will cost £40 for the financial year and you can apply at any time, the council will issue this within 10 working days.

Once you have received the permit you attach it to your bin and the Garden Waste collections will start. If you use your brown bin for food waste only it will still be collected without a permit.

Exceptions and getting support

You can receive a free permit if you receive full (100%) means tested Council Tax Reduction or a Severe Mental Impairment (SMI) council tax exemption. But you still need to apply for the permit; you won't receive one automatically.

You can apply on the council's website. If you can't access the online form, you can get support by visiting your local library.



School Clothing Grant and Free School Meals Applications NOW OPEN

If you have a child who is going to be attending a school in Renfrewshire next year, and are in receipt of benefits like Universal Credit with monthly earned income less than £726, Tax Credits, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction you may be eligible for a school clothing grant and/or free school meals.

If your child is in P1 to P6 they will get Free School Meals anyway.

The School Clothing Grant is worth £120 for Primary School pupils and £150 for Secondary School pupils. If your child is starting at a new school in August you may have to wait until they start to apply.

The online application has now opened for the School Year 2023/24 and you can apply on the council's website.

If you need help you can contact our advice team on 0141 583 4123 or email adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk

YOU SAID, WE DID

YOU SAID:

You wanted more feedback on our garden service.

WE DID:

We now email tenants after we carry out a close inspection.

We are now extending this to include our sample checks of our close cleaning and landscape services.

In July we will start to issue emails when we have sample checked our close cleaning service.

When our new landscape contractor starts, we will add this on. Further information will be included in our August bulletin.