


The logo for CCH, consisting of the letters 'CCH' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

The Confederation of
Co-operative
Housing

Supporting our
membership

2018

A wooden board game of Snakes and Ladders. The board is a 10x10 grid of colored squares (red, green, yellow, blue, white). Numbers 1-100 are placed in the squares. Snakes are placed on squares 1, 4, 13, 17, 24, 27, 34, 47, 53, 65, 74, 84, 95. Ladders are placed on squares 4-9, 13-34, 17-24, 27-34, 34-47, 47-53, 65-74, 74-84, 84-95. A blue snake is on square 1, a yellow snake is on square 4, a blue snake is on square 13, a yellow snake is on square 17, a blue snake is on square 24, a yellow snake is on square 27, a blue snake is on square 34, a yellow snake is on square 47, a blue snake is on square 53, a yellow snake is on square 65, a blue snake is on square 74, a yellow snake is on square 84, and a blue snake is on square 95. A blue ladder is on squares 4-9, a yellow ladder is on squares 13-34, a blue ladder is on squares 17-24, a yellow ladder is on squares 27-34, a blue ladder is on squares 34-47, a yellow ladder is on squares 47-53, a blue ladder is on squares 65-74, and a yellow ladder is on squares 74-84. A blue ladder is on squares 84-95.

Ideally, what's the maximum
someone should serve on the
MC?

- a) 9 years
- b) 10 years
- c) 3 years
- d) 5 years

Supporting our membership 2018

Introduction

This summary sets out the work the CCH has done for our membership over the last year.

Member priorities

Our members have always told us that the three most important issues for the housing co-op movement are:

- keeping CCH members informed about issues that affect their governance and viability
- building more co-operative homes
- helping with the governance of co-ops

Most of our work in the last year has been connected with these themes.

Events

We have held two regional member forums this year in Liverpool in March and in Birmingham in October. The main issues discussed at those member meetings were:

- General Data Protection Requirements
- Fire safety
- The Community Housing Fund and developing new co-operative homes
- The Government's Social Housing Green Paper
- A Voice for Tenants

We also held a very successful conference in Leamington Spa in May. 'People and Power' looked at how communities in the UK are taking back control of their housing, and included practical workshops aimed specifically at our members.

Our 2019 conference takes place on the 10-11th May 2019.

Government Policy

Longer term CCH members will recall the work we did to mitigate the potential problems that issues such as Voluntary Right to Buy, rent reductions and Local Housing Allowance caps could have caused our sector. The last year has seen us being able to move forward to much more positive discussions with civil servants about our sector that has included:

- **The Community Housing Fund and community-led homes**
The CCH has been very instrumental in working with Government on their Community Housing Fund – aimed at scaling up the community-led housing sector. The CCH is now playing a central role in developing this programme with Government and Homes England – developing a national training and accreditation for new scheme enablers; supporting the development of local hubs to provide advice and assistance on developing new community-led homes; and generally ensuring that our sector takes advantage of the opportunities available under the new programme.

- **A Voice for Tenants**

The CCH has also been at the heart of developing a national body to speak on behalf of social housing tenants. We have worked with Government on a series of events to enable housing ministers to meet with tenants – leading on to the publication of the social housing green paper – which included a question, as a result of our work, about the establishment of national tenant representation. We carried out a survey of tenants on this question, feeding in our results to the green paper. We are now anticipating that we will be working with Government on establishing a body this year.

These two initiatives have placed the CCH at the heart of Government working closely with respective civil servants. They provide the basis for us to progress two initiatives that could be of direct benefit to our membership:

- **A Community-led Housing regulator**

For many years our sector has operated within an environment that is geared towards large housing associations and which is inappropriate for our local community co-operatives. Based on the Agency for Co-operative Housing developed in Canada, we have proposed the establishment of a specific regulator aimed at the community-led housing sector, including co-ops, tenant management organisations and other community-led housing organisations. Such a body would enable community-led housing organisations to receive a bespoke service to support them with their governance, viability and management.

- **A Co-operative Foundation**

The CCH is in the early stages of developing a proposal to establish a “Co-operative Foundation” aimed at developing community-led homes at scale across the country. Based on a model developed by the Community Land Trust of British Columbia in Canada, the aim of the freehold-owning Foundation would be to deal with financing and other business-related matters, whilst leasing to local community-led housing organisations. Such a body may also enable existing co-operatives to use their assets to develop new co-operative homes. The CCH has been encouraged to draw up a proposal to Government to fund the development of the Foundation.

Other matters the CCH has been involved with during the year of benefit to our members include:

- we responded to the Government's Green Paper on Social Housing
- we responded to the associated consultation on the future of regulation of social housing
- we responded to the Government's consultation on the future of rent setting in the social rented sector, primarily advocating that our member co-ops should continue to be free to set their rents within a range up to consumer price index + 1% based on consultation with their members and their long-term business plans
- we participated in Dame Judith Hackett's review of fire safety regulations and how tenants should be involved in fire safety matters
- we supported the Benefit to Society campaign, aimed at tackling the stigma associated with social housing
- we supported the launch of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network's report on Community Led Housing – guidance on community-led housing written by local authorities for local authorities.

Member guidance

We continued to promote our well received governance and management guidance and we produced guidance on General Data Protection Regulations. We also provided guidance to members on the Government's Social Housing Green Paper and based our response to the paper on feedback from members.

As part of our work to develop a training and accreditation course for enablers of new community-led housing, we have produced various associated guidance. As this work progresses, it is intended that we will produce model documentation, much of which will be relevant and useful to our existing membership.

Providing services

We have formally provided services to 25 co-ops and other organisations over the last year. This assistance ranged from small pieces of governance work to much larger policy reviews.

Work with mutual housing associations

We have continued to work with our mutual housing association members – carrying out a programme to assess the value they get from their mutuality.

Plans for 2019

Building on the work from this year, we are planning the following activities for next year:

- further work to develop the national community-led homes programme, including training enablers who can assist co-operatives and other community-led housing organisations develop new homes, alongside production of various policy and other materials that will be of use to our existing membership
- making a proposal for a two-year programme to develop the Co-operative Foundation referred to above
- discussions with Government and others about a community-led homes regulator and consideration of what this entails
- a consultation programme with social housing tenants regarding how A Voice for Tenants should be established – leading to its establishment.

We are planning the following dates:

- **CCH 25th Annual Conference: 10th to 11th May 2019 – Chesford Grange, Leamington Spa**
- **CCH Member Forum London: March 2019**
- **CCH Member Forum Liverpool: September 2019**

We look forward to working with our members over the coming year.

CCH December 2018



Save the date

CCH Annual Conference
10-11 May 2019
Chesford Grange
Leamington Spa

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