

Chair Overview Solo Housing AGM 2022

Welcome and thanks

This is our first face to face AGM since Covid-19. In 2020 we had a virtual AGM and last year we had a “hybrid” meeting with a mix of people at the venue and those who dialled in to join us virtually. This makes the 2022 AGM even more special as it is so lovely to be in the same room as all of you this year!

It’s lovely to welcome a number of new colleagues to the staff team and new trustees to the executive committee too.

The executive committee continued to meet throughout the year, virtually, and we had a strategy day on Saturday 3 December when we met in person with senior colleagues from Solo. I have nothing but the greatest respect for my fellow trustees who share their vast knowledge, skills and experience for the greater good of Solo and give up their time on a voluntary basis.

We, on the committee, all admire the work of the Solo team and the outcomes you achieve with our residents. Carolyn will talk more about the many specific achievements for the year but on behalf of my fellow trustees I would like to thank everyone on the staff team for all their commitment, loyalty and dedication to the work of Solo. We know that there have been many challenges behind the scenes too this year and the Finance and admin team have had to overcome the challenges of learning a new accounts package and a new rent accounting package. Nevertheless, with help from our colleagues at Lovewell Blake, we have a full set of accounts for your inspection.

We are all very sad to see Keir resign from the Executive Committee this evening. Keir has been a trustee since 2006 and, more recently, company secretary for Solo. Keir has been a great contributor at executive meetings and we shall all miss his insight and wisdom.

We are also delighted to welcome some new trustees to the committee. Lisa Oakley, Martyn Sandford, Tracey Dowse and Mark Walsh will all become members of the executive and all bring a variety of skills and knowledge to the committee which will only be of benefit to Solo

This will be the last time that I stand before you in my capacity as Chair. I have loved every minute of my thirteen years on the committee but it is time for new colleagues to take over. I will be around for a while whilst a replacement Chair is recruited but know that I will be leaving Solo in a strong position ready to face the challenges ahead and with lots of new opportunities on the horizon. I have loved working with Carolyn and the team and would like to thank you all for making me feel so welcome and part of the Solo family.

Sally Hanlin 13th December 2022