



MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE

1 APRIL 2015

2nd Floor
84 Market Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 6HB

Telephone: 0151 649 9718
Facsimile: 0151 650 0682
E-mail: info@forumhousing.co.uk
www.forumhousing.co.uk



NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCED FOR LOCAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Forum Housing Association, a provider of supported housing to over 340 young homeless people across Wirral, Merseyside and Cheshire, is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Mr Ian Cardwell.

Mr Cardwell has been appointed following the retirement of Mrs. Chris Allen BEM. His appointment was confirmed at a special service last week at Christ the King Church in Birkenhead, led by the Right Reverend Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead. The service was held to mark both the appointment and also the retirement of Mrs Allen. The event was attended by representatives from local voluntary organisations, Councillors and the Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Steve Foulkes.

Mrs Allen had been Chief Executive for Forum Housing for 36 years, working tirelessly against poverty and homelessness on behalf of local young people.

The new Chief Executive took over his new role from the 1st of April. Prior to joining Forum he was Assistant Director at the National Almshouse Association. He has previous experience as a senior civil servant at the Home Office and as a strategic advisor to the Abu Dhabi Government. Mr Cardwell had also served as a police officer for 34 years, retiring as an Assistant Chief Constable in 2010. He said, *"I am delighted and honoured to take on this challenging role. My predecessor has done an incredible job over many years and I am determined to carry on her great work"*.



Patron: Right Reverend Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead

President: Mrs. C.A. Allen, BEM

Chairman: Mrs. S. Elliott

Chief Executive: Mr. I.D. Cardwell

Birkenhead Forum Housing Association Ltd. A Charity incorporated as an Industrial and Provident Society under the reference number 19269R.

Registered with the Homes and Communities Agency / HCA the Regulator of Social Housing - L1299 Affiliated to NHF

Registered office: 2nd Floor 84 Market Street, Birkenhead, Wirral. CH41 6HB

Members of: Housing Ombudsman Service Social Housing Pension Scheme



The Chair of Forum's Board of Directors, Mrs Sue Elliot, said

"Chris Allen has been an exceptionally dedicated and charismatic leader, we will miss her and wish her every happiness in her retirement from Forum. I am delighted to welcome Ian Cardwell as successor, and we look forward to going from strength to strength as we continue to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable young people in society"

Photograph



(From Left The Right Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead, Chris Allen BEM and New Chief Executive of Forum Housing Association Ian Cardwell.) 25/04/2015 Christ the King Church Birkenhead

Notes to Editors:

About Forum Housing Association

Forum Housing Association has been a specialist provider of supported accommodation to young people aged 16-25 for 45 years. During the last 4 decades we have increased our accommodation projects in Wirral, Sefton, Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East.



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Alongside providing housing, we work with our young people supporting their varied and diverse needs in order to prepare them for successful, independent living. We are currently working with over 400 young people each week.

The Association's mission statement "It's all about you" is a testimony to the Association's Christian foundation and values. It captures for us the sentiments of respect for and consideration of others, which is at the heart of all we do.

There are over 120 staff members working for the Association in a variety of roles. In addition there are a significant number of young people who are shareholders, charged with the task of encouraging participation and engagement of our young people in the planning, decision making and evaluation of all the services we deliver.

For more information about Forum Housing Association please visit www.forumhousing.co.uk

Media Contact:

Amanda Boden, 0151 649 9718 ext 261, amanda.boden@forumhousing.co.uk



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