

## **Appendix 3 - Community investment**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Lewisham Homes (LH) has community investment programmes aimed at making a real difference to residents by helping them to get online, to access financial and budgeting advice, by helping with employment and training opportunities, and by promoting healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.

### **2 Involvement**

- 2.1 Residents are encouraged to be involved in many ways. This includes formal approaches:
- 7 residents on the LH Board:
  - the Residents Scrutiny Committee; and
  - the Resident Engagement Panel.

### **3 Skills**

- 3.1 LH is developing resident skills to improve involvement and to help residents' employment and careers, as well as supporting the development of future Board Members. Lewisham Homes continued to work in partnership with London Metropolitan University to run two further successful 'improving housing services' courses. LH have set up two 1-day course for residents to offer a bite size version of the 3-day course to residents.
- 27 residents completed the 3-day Improving Housing Services course in 2018/19
  - 15 residents achieved the accreditation
  - 36 residents have taken part in the one-day bitesize course (introduction to housing services).
  - 20 residents attended the St Giles Trust routeways event at Lewisham Homes. 16 signed up to the program following the event
  - 19 residents completed training in event planning, customer services for health and safety, data protection and data security, and business admin
  - Lewisham Homes arranged a job fair that took place at the civic suite at the beginning of April
  - 9 residents completed resident scrutiny training

### **4 Digital inclusion**

- 4.1 Lewisham Homes is helping residents to access online services to save themselves time and money and ensure the services LH provides are efficient and affordable.
- 4.2 In partnership with the mobile network 3 we have run 24 digital training classes across 4 independent living schemes. 38 beneficiaries have engaged on 93 separate occasions
- 4.3 LH together with the council and Phoenix Housing Community Housing received over £20K funding to run a trial digital skills screening and support service for unemployed residents. It started in September 2018 and has so far trained 10 Digital Champions, employed 2 professional connectors and screened over 170 local people for basic digital skills.

### **5 Financial Inclusion**

- 5.1 Lewisham Homes works with tenants to improve financial inclusion and help them resolve their debt problems. It has invested in staff who in 2018/19 secured

£891,000 in backdated and other benefit gains for tenants, including those in temporary accommodation. These staff are increasingly involved in helping residents on Universal Credit. Lewisham Homes also helps residents' finances by supporting the Lewisham Credit Union that has 1,420 Lewisham Homes residents with active accounts and £535,900 in total savings.

## **6 Community activities**

- 6.1 The partnership with the Albany continues and has delivered
- 238 unique participants in Love2Dance, a free weekly street dance programme for 8-18 year olds. It increases aspirations, self-esteem and confidence and allows parents to form strong local connections. It is hosted over three different sites – Deptford, Sydenham & Honor Oak.
  - 284 participants benefiting from 'Meet Me at Lewisham Homes', an arts, social and lunch club run in six sheltered schemes, to help recognise the creative potential of the over- 60s and offering a way to combat loneliness and isolation. There were 96 sessions during the last financial year and additional engagement activities offered outside of the schemes.
  - 279 participants benefitting from gardening activities including a range of different gardening clubs for all ages. They have linked with 'Meet Me at' and run a session at a sheltered scheme, alongside working with other community groups.

## **7 Poverty Reduction**

- 7.1 As part of Lewisham Homes commitment to the New Deal (anti-poverty plan), Lewisham Homes has set up Lewisham's first community store at Evelyn community centre. Members who are all on a low income will receive approximately £30 worth of grocery shopping each week for £3.50. There are currently 40 members and 15 volunteers. It runs every Tuesday, in partnership with Fareshare.