Community Investment Strategy
2020-2023

Making a real difference to people's lives

Contents

Making a real difference to people's lives 3

Working beyond our core activities 4

Strategic themes and objectives 5

Our community investment programmes 6

Monitoring and review

Making a real difference to people's lives

This strategy has been developed with the aim of supporting our communities beyond our core landlord purpose. It provides a focus to ensure we are working towards our common goals which have been shaped by feedback from stakeholders including tenants, community groups and employees.

They target the following five pillars of activity:

- Community empowerment and engagement
- Health and well-being
- Financial well-being
- Work and learning
- Volunteering

We will continue to use our influence and knowledge, work in partnership and source additional funding to deliver a range of collaborative services that instigate positive change and make a fundamental difference to people's lives; contributing to wider community benefits in doing so.

Working beyond our core activities

Apex works across a range of vibrant and diverse communities throughout Northern Ireland and increasingly sees the need to target this work beyond our core business activities. This is necessitated by the considerable pressures society in general continues to face in a challenging economic climate. As a social landlord, we see every day the impact of a range of factors, including Welfare Reform, on our communities.

Apex therefore seeks to deliver a range of programmes and services that instigate positive change and make a fundamental difference to people's lives, thereby making our communities a better place to live.

Through investing in people, property and the environment, we aim to make a positive difference. To help achieve our aim, we work with a number of community partners to enable tenants and residents to access a range of initiatives including self-development programmes, advice on health and well-being, budgeting and employment opportunities.

By enhancing our engagement in community investment activities, we have established Apex as one of the leading socially responsible organisations in Northern Ireland. We want to continue with this important work to ensure that we continue to build thriving communities where people want to live and work.

Apex is presented with the 'Investing in your Community' Award at Business in the Community's 2019 Responsible Business Awards

Strategic themes and objectives

1	Enable people to fulfil their aspirations	**1.1**	Support people to make informed decisions about their lives and increase their independence.
		1.2	Support people to recognise their potential by increasing their motivation, confidence, skills and knowledge.
2	Enable successful communities	**2.1**	Provide opportunities for people to participate in making decisions about their communities.
		2.2	Support people to fulfil their vision and aspirations for their community and between communities.
3	Promote positive partnerships within communities	**3.1**	Support charities, social enterprises and SMEs within our communities.
		3.2	Support the development of economic activity within the areas that we work.

Our community investment programmes

Welfare Advice & Financial Inclusion

Our Welfare Advice Officers support tenants by providing benefits and budgeting advice and signposting to partner organisations.

Apex Community Supermarket

Supported by DfC and local businesses, Apex Community Supermarket supports families on the journey out of food poverty towards food independence.

Community Allotments

These allotments at Ballymagowan Park in Derry~Londonderry, support people to grow their own vegetables, learn new skills and develop friendships.

Luncheon Club

Nutritious 3-course meals are provided for local older people 5 days a week from Abbey House in Derry~Londonderry; addressing social isolation and undernourishment.

Apex with Children in Crossfire

Through this partnership we provide nutritious food, clean water, pre-primary school education and women's empowerment programmes in deprived areas in Tanzania.

Training and Employment

Our community hubs facilitate training in areas like good relations, first aid and essential business skills and are supported by our volunteering opportunities.

Monitoring and review

Progress on delivering the Community Investment Strategy is reported quarterly to the Housing Management Committee which is attended by senior managers, board members and active tenants. Progress is also reported annually through the Apex Annual Report.

apex
apex
apex

Apex Housing Association Ltd

REGISTERED OFFICE:
10 Butcher Street
Derry~Londonderry
BT48 6HL

BELFAST OFFICE:
6 Cromac Place
The Gasworks
Belfast
BT7 2JB

DUNGANNON OFFICE:
Unit 3A
Dungannon Enterprise Centre
2 Coalisland Road
Dungannon
BT71 6JT

Telephone: 028 7130 4800
Email: info@apex.org.uk
Online: www.apex.org.uk

This document is available in alternative formats on request

The Apex Voluntary Housing Group comprises:

Apex Housing Association Limited
Newington Housing Association Limited
Fairbuild Homes (NI) Limited