

Cardiff Council's Scrutiny Committee - Cadwyn's engagement with Cardiff Council

Cardiff Council is Cadwyn's key strategic partner and we consider that generally we have a very good relationship with all the parts of the Authority that we deal with. We are a diverse organisation and interface with many parts of the Council on a day to day basis including:

- Housing Options
- Housing Benefit
- Housing Strategy
- Community Safety
- Support
- Housing Development
- Grants

What is working well:

- The HUBs – these are a great resource for our residents
- C2C and Housing Benefit
- Housing Strategy Team- The relationship with team is very good. Always helpful with queries and quick to respond. Regular RSL meetings with opportunity to input into the agenda. Good partnership working especially for initiatives such as Training Tenancies and Local Lettings Policies.
- New build programmes – particularly package deals, partnership working and innovative programmes like the containers.
- Grant investment in NuLife – we are very grateful for the support as this scheme provides volunteering, recycling and enabling tenants to access basic furniture and white goods.
- Commitment to tackling furniture poverty through referral voucher scheme (particularly relevant when it comes to Temporary Accommodation move-ons)
- Syrian Refugee scheme
- SHG allocation and management works very well, the LA manage the programme extremely well and spread the grant across many schemes to maximise housing
- LA are very proactive in terms of liaising with RSL's development teams
- Quick to turn around strategic support for potential schemes
- LA have a pragmatic approach to development, including mixed use schemes & tenures.
- Strong direction in terms of strategic housing requirements.
- LA have been proactive in securing additional grant, ie slippage which delivers more schemes in the authority.

Some areas for improvement/opportunities:

Whilst there are some areas for improvements in administration e.g. invoice delays there are some key areas that actually provide opportunities for us to work even more in partnership in the future. These are:

1. To assist the L.A. on homelessness including rough sleeping – we have already helped some Housing First tenants and want to do more to assist in this area but it means more resource for providing intensive support for those people as well as building more homes.
2. Increasing the supply of homes in Cardiff – we have a great track record of working with the Council and want to continue to do this – Simon Fry will talk about our build programme and innovation e.g. containers which leads onto our role as providing temporary accommodation to Cardiff. Increasing communication on L.A. disposal of land will help deliver more affordable homes and there could also be opportunities to share development services. Further work on streamlining the planning process would be welcome including accelerating section 106 opportunities.
3. We understand the fundamental need to join up on health, social care and housing and are keen to explore opportunities with the L.A to e.g. reduce evictions especially where tenants are in general needs housing but actually need far more support and often have health needs.
4. We have a great track record in supporting families through e.g. Nightingale house – we think we can do more of this as we offer 24 hour service (quite often our residents need support in the night as this is when adverse things can happen) plus we use the restorative approach and Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) which means that we are helping residents to help themselves.
5. Community work and wellbeing – we are passionate about tenants being able to have basic goods in their homes, e.g. a bed to sleep on and a fridge to keep fresh food and therefore are looking at ways of making Nu Life sustainable in the long term, Nu Life recycles and upcycles furniture and white goods and provides these to tenants and also offers a great volunteering opportunity for e.g., prison leavers. There is therefore an opportunity to improve our relationship with the Waste Management department and get access to the HWRCs so we can reuse more.

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