

OUR CHAIR OF THE BOARD MS EVELYN ASANTE-MENSAH, LEADING THE WAY FOR COVID VACCINATIONS

Evelyn Asante-Mensah, our Chair, had her COVID vaccination last month at the vaccination hub in Ashton-Under-Lyne. Evelyn is also the Chair at Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust and has underlying health conditions and is therefore in one of the high-risk groups.

Evelyn has written a personal blog where she refers to the vaccination as

“An injection of hope”

She states, “I’ve always loved hugging my grandchildren and, before our world changed, I was used to spending lots of time with them.

We would regularly be in each other’s houses. That wonderful and simple act, that I previously took for granted and now feels like a lifetime ago, will be overwhelming when I’m finally able to put my arms around them.

This NHS vaccination programme is a monumental and momentous turning point, which will help us get back to some kind of normality.



Our Chair of the Board and Chair at Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust, Ms Evelyn Asante-Mensah OBE, getting the COVID vaccine at Trust HQ in Ashton-Under-Lyne

Being in a high-risk group, because of my serious underlying health conditions, has fuelled my anxiety throughout this pandemic.

The worry and stress has felt insurmountable at times, so knowing this small but mighty injection will help stop that gnawing fear is a really big deal for me.

As a black woman of African origin, I understand the fears and hesitancy within communities to take a vaccine not only because of the speed in which it was produced but also for some the mistrust around historic authorities and their actions. As a health professional, I believe that the vaccine and the work undertaken by the scientists and medics is the best way forward.

I'm very aware of the responsibility I have to encourage others to have the vaccine and want to keep telling everyone that I have also studied the evidence and facts. Yes, we need to have some level of trust and put our faith in the experts,

but I've still done lots of my own research on the pros and cons".

To read the full blog please click visit:

<https://penninecareexecs.blogspot.com/2021/01/endurance.html>

You can also watch a short Video from Evelyn, using the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMpEt1f5__o

We are so proud of the NHS and the excellent work they are doing in getting our lives "back to normal" and hope and encourage everyone to get vaccinated, when your turn comes!

This is a reminder that better days will come and one day things will get back to normal.

REGULATOR OF SOCIAL HOUSING CONTINUES TO GIVE ARAWAK WALTON A G1/V1 GRADING

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Arawak Walton has been graded a G1/V1 following the Regulator's annual review. This is the highest grading that can be achieved,

and we are proud to maintain the standards in relation to Governance and Financial Viability Standard of the Regulatory Framework.

The governance and financial viability grades and straplines for Arawak Walton Housing Association are:

G1

The provider meets our governance requirements.

**G1
V1**

V1

The provider meets our viability requirements and has the financial capacity to deal with a wide range of adverse scenarios.



Regulator of
Social Housing

PASSING OF CHIEF MRS ELOUISE EDWARDS, FOUNDER MEMBER OF ARAWAK WALTON

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mrs Elouise Edwards. Elouise was a founding member of Arawak Walton who will be sadly missed by the communities upon which she made a significant impact on. She passed away on Saturday, 23rd January 2021.

Elouise was born in Guyana, South America on the 28th December 1932. Her mother Erica Grimes was married to Samuel Chandler and they had ten children, five boys and five girls – Elouise was the youngest child.

In 1961, Elouise and their first child Beresford Junior emigrated to Manchester, England to join her husband.

Over the years, Elouise became an active community worker and was involved in over 35 organisations throughout Greater Manchester including the co-founder of Manchester Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia centre, Arawak Walton Housing Association, Cariocca Enterprises Manchester Limited, NIA Cultural centre, Culture Week, Roots Oral History Project, Roots Festival, I'N'I Rules OK Radio Programme on BBC Radio, African & Caribbean Mental Health Services,

Mosscares Housing Association, Black People In The Criminal Justice System, Abasindi Women's Co-operatives, African Caribbean Care Group For The Elderly & Infirm, Family Advice & Community Resource Centre and many others.

Elouise received an MBE (Member of the British Empire) for her tireless services to the local community. The University of Manchester also awarded her an honorary degree of Master of Arts for services to the community.

Elouise was also involved with the following organisations over many years, namely: Northwest Arts Group, Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Centre (The University of Manchester), Kath Locke Centre, the Progress Trust, Chel Group, 1981 Disturbance Committee and many others.

The Nigerian Community of Manchester gave her the title of Honorary Chieftain with an official naming ceremony conducted by Chief Reogigi-ugo of Nigeria, who performed the ceremony and presented her with an award. The Manchester Black Community then called her Mama Edwards.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE & LEGACY

R.I.P

Chief Mrs Elouise Edwards
MBE, MA (Hon)
affectionately known as
“**Mama Edwards**”

1932 – 2021

Manchester (UK)
Community Activist &
Life-long Campaigner For
Racial Equality & Justice

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community (Youth) on Solid Ground (COSG) were delighted to announce that they have been successful in achieving local authority planning approval for the proposed building of a New Activity Sports Hall at their Manley Park Centre Site.

Through this exciting new venture COSG believe they will make a massive difference

to the lives of young people and the residents of Whalley Range and surrounding areas through their mentoring and activity programmes.

To find out more about
COSG please visit their
website www.yosg.org.uk.



JANUARY BOARD MEETING

We held our January Board meeting via video conferencing, due to the current situation of COVID-19 and being in Lockdown. We have found that we are still able to hold productive meetings, despite all being located remotely.

At the Board meeting members received a virtual presentation on our E&D Strategy from our consultant and critical friend, Ms Chris Root.

Members also received reports on our Strategic Bridges delivery plan, annual report production plan and the risk management changes during COVID/Brexit.

Finally, members received reports from the Senior Management Team including the Equality and Diversity monitoring of our tenants, postal survey 2020 outcomes, review and action plan and the Housing Aspirations report 2020/21

DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, MEMBERS APPROVED:

✓
The Equality and Diversity Policy, Strategy and Action Plan

✓
The Treasury Strategy, including new funding proposals

✓
Rent Setting 2021/22 – Options and Implications - recommendations

✓
Key Performance Indicators options 2021/22 and recommendations

✓
The Stock acquisition and feasibilities review outcomes

✓
The Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

✓
Our Management Plan 2021/22

✓
The Concerns and Complaints Policy

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

NEW YEAR NEW HOME

We are pleased to announce that we have completed a purchase from Guinness which is a 3-bed end terrace house in Levenshulme.

The property is social rent, with a rent of £97 per week.

We are also in discussions with Jigsaw Homes regarding a further 4 acquisitions in various locations – all on streets where we currently have properties, so WATCH THIS SPACE!



NEW STARTERS AND LEAVERS



Sabina Ahad

Sabina Ahad joined our team in January 2021 in the role of IT Officer. Sabina will be working with us for a six months fixed term contract on a part time basis. Sabina previous experience includes being involved

in IT projects, as a project coordinator and business analyst. She has also worked on implementing finance systems and CRM systems.

Here is what Sabina had to say about starting with Arawak Walton: “Although I have started at a strange time with lockdown 3 well underway, I have had the warmest welcome from all the staff I have met”.



Maria Reynolds

Arawak Walton would like to welcome Maria back who has joined our Finance Team on a fixed term contract until June 2021. Maria is no stranger to Arawak Walton having worked as a temp earlier this year.



Michelle Knight

Michelle Knight, IT and Finance Assistant has left Arawak Walton to start a new job. We wish her all the best.

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR BOARD?

First you have to become a shareholder. If you are interested in working more closely with the association to make a difference to peoples' lives, please contact Bindu Pandya on

0161-272-5248



for a Shareholder/Board member pack.

This will give you all the information you need on the requirements for becoming a Board member.

Remember if you have any comments or would like to contribute an article to our newsletter, please contact Bindu Pandya

0161 272 5248

PERFORMANCE STATISTICS (KPI'S)

| ARAWAK WALTON PERFORMANCE | NOV - 20 | DEC-20 | JAN - 21 | TARGET |
|--|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| VOIDS % | 0.5% | 0% | 0.04% | <1% |
| RENT ARREARS % | 2.91% | 3.73%* | 2.88% | <3.20% |
| NUMBER OF DAYS TO RE-LET A PROPERTY | 13.1 | 33.2** | N/A | <18.5 |
| OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH REPAIRS % | 99.7% | 99.7% | 99.6% | >96% |
| REPAIRS COMPLETION STATS | NOV - 20 | DEC-20 | JAN - 21 | TARGET |
| EMERGENCY-COMPLETED WITHIN 24 HOURS % | 100% | 100% | 100% | >95% |
| URGENT-COMPLETED WITHIN 7 DAYS % | 98.22% | 98.10% | 98.21% | >92% |
| ROUTINE-COMPLETED WITHIN 21 DAYS % | 98.06% | 98.02% | 98.00% | >92% |
| KEY  ON TARGET  MISSED TARGET | | | | |

* There were 3 bank holidays and 1 late housing benefit payment which caused the rent arrears to be high

** One delay due to moving restrictions during lockdown

Get prepared for Census 2021

Census Day will be Sunday 21 March 2021

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE UPCOMING CENSUS
ON OUR WEBSITE:

[https://arawakwalton.com/take-part
-in-the-2021-census-this-march/](https://arawakwalton.com/take-part-in-the-2021-census-this-march/)

Please put this newsletter up on your reception notice board or circulate it to others who you think may find it of interest. Alternatively, if you feel your organisation would benefit from having more copies available, please contact Bindu on 0161 272 5248.