

HOUSING COMMUNITY NETWORK MANIFESTO 2024



- The next Programme for Government should have stand-alone housing actions, one of which should work toward ending homelessness by the end of the mandate.
- All citizens should, as a human right, have access to affordable, habitable, and accessible homes with security of tenure and the quiet enjoyment of a safe home life.
- CHF supports the Housing Executive as a landlord of choice for the people of Northern Ireland.
- CHF supports the Housing Executive as a landlord that can invest in its stock and has the means to resource its strategic decisions fully.
- Social tenants must be empowered and recognised as an integral part in driving service improvements and standards of their respective landlords and should be encouraged to take an active role in decisions which affect their homes.
- All housing providers should place co-production to the fore in the framing and implementation of policies and practices. They should work in partnership with tenants to achieve positive and agreed changes in the design, delivery and experience of housing and landlord services.
- The new PfG should confirm the target to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland by 2050 through interim emission reduction targets by placing a duty on government to bring forward a Climate Action Plan with sectoral targets and relevant policies, programmes, and clear carbon budgets.
- Government should, as a priority, address persistent inequalities, eliminate discrimination, and tackle prejudice in all housing sectors and tenures.

The Housing Community Network (HCN) is the key forum for tenant and community engagement in Northern Ireland.

It comprises over 500 community groups and representative tenant involvement panels in each of the Housing Executive areas of housing management.

The Central Housing Forum (CHF) sits at the top of the HCN structure. It is made up of representatives from each of the Housing Executive's 13 Areas and representation from 'under-represented' groups, including LGBTQ+ representatives, young people, people with disabilities, and people from rural areas.

The Central Housing Forum has a recognised and meaningful role in the monitoring and decision-making process of the Housing Executive and influences decisions affecting tenants and communities. The Forum's role is to help the Housing Executive co-design/co-produce and scrutinise policies, procedures and services, where appropriate and acts as a quality assurance to the Housing Executive's Board, with whom they meet at least annually.

Learn more:

<https://supportingcommunities.org/what-is-the-hcn>