



2016

Corporate Social Responsibility



Co-Ownership
Housing®

Corporate Social Responsibility Report 2016

2016 has been a great year for fundraising and volunteering at Co-Ownership. Congratulations to all staff – the commitment to our CSR projects during the last 12 months has been a great achievement whilst at the same time purchasing 644 properties through Co-Ownership this calendar year.

Our activities are based around 3 areas:

Environment – reducing the impact of our operations on the environment through encouraging behaviours and introducing initiatives that minimise waste and maximise efficiency.

Workplace – building on our existing activities that support equality of opportunity and diversity both in our dealings with clients and stakeholders and also across the organisation.

Community – encouraging and supporting our staff in volunteering and fundraising opportunities.

Environment

Our aim is to embed environmentally ethical behaviour into our culture and workforce

- Our recycling partnership with Bryson House recycling paper, cardboard, cans and plastic continues and this year we recycled 2249 kilos.
- We continued to record and display recycling progress for staff.
- The CHESS (Co-Ownership Housing Energy Saving Scheme) team met regularly throughout the year to discuss potential ways to save energy in the office.
- We remain committed to reducing all waste and going forward this will be measured and monitored.
- The process of becoming a 'paperless office' is ongoing with staff now utilizing the electronic document and record management system.

Workplace

- We continue to review our governance framework and policies for good practice in terms of meeting the needs of our various stakeholders.
- Our Equality Team continues their work internally and has submitted the Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission in August 2016.
- We continue to contribute to consultations on strategy and legislation in the housing arena.
- We continued to provide staff and materials free of charge to support home buyers advice events organised by local estate agents and lending institutions.

Community

- Fundraising efforts continued throughout the year raising over £500 for charity.
- We have had coffee mornings, dress down days, sold pancakes and raffled Easter eggs. Staff also took part in a £ for 1lb challenge throughout the year raising funds for Cancer Research.

- Staff collected gifts for local children during the Christmas period again this year. We continued to support the Barnardo's Bereavement Campaign, supporting grieving children and their families.
- We have encouraged staff to take part in volunteering throughout the year including Silver Surfers Day and Give and Gain Day.
- Staff continued to take part in regular blood donation sessions in Belfast.

The year ahead

We will continue our CSR activities focusing on the 3 main areas, environment, workplace and community working alongside Business in the Community. We especially want to continue our fundraising days and volunteering opportunities for staff.

We are delighted that Co-Ownership achieved CORE certification in conjunction with BITC in 2016. CORE is a framework for identifying and measuring corporate responsibility activity and performance. It is based on Business in the Community's Corporate Responsibility (CR) Model.



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