



Irish Council
for Social Housing

Irish Council for Social Housing Biennial Social Housing Conference Review



Speaking at the first session of the ICSH conference, "Taking the 'Market' out of Housing" L-R: Alice Leahy, Director and Co-founder of Trust, Dr. Padraic Kenna, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, NUI Galway (Chair), Mr. Jim Power, Chief Economist, Friends First

The Irish Council for Social Housing biennial social housing conference “*Delivering Housing Solutions for a New Era*” took place September 15th -17th 2009 in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone. Over 300 delegates attended the conference to reflect on the “new era” theme which mirrored the changed economic times housing associations now find themselves operating in. Twenty-nine speakers from a variety of backgrounds in housing took part in individual and parallel sessions on subject matters ranging from housing management and development, future and current initiatives in social housing, financing and the provision of social housing, as well as sustainable energy practices. Each session was interactive to ensure that all delegates had the opportunity to question and discuss the various issues being raised by speakers and panellists. The conference also attracted several housing practitioners from abroad including Mr. David Ireland, CEO, Empty Homes Agency, UK; Ms. Marie Keddie, Planning Partnerships and Commissioning Manager, City of Edinburgh Council; Mr. Peter Fredricksson, Senior Advisor on Homelessness, Ministry for Housing Finland and Mr. Nic Retsinas, Director, Centre for Housing Studies, Harvard University, USA.

Aside from the information and issues up for discussion and debate through various sessions, delegates at the conference had the opportunity to engage with the numerous exhibitors present, who deliver a range of products and services relevant to housing providers. A first for the Irish Council for Social Housing conference, delegates were also treated to housing maintenance demonstrations by staff members of homeware and DIY retailers B&Q.

The conference dinner on the Wednesday night, a highlight in the conference schedule, played host to several events including, the community housing awards ceremony and the ICSH education and training graduation, where graduates of the 2009 Housing Management and Housing Development courses received their NCI certificates.

The conference was brought to a close on Thursday afternoon by ICSH Executive Director Donal McManus after two more successful morning sessions. The Irish Council for Social Housing would like to take this opportunity to thank all the delegates, panellists, speakers and sponsors who partook in the conference and ensured its great success.



Board Member Award, Back Row L-R: Kathleen McKillion, Head of Development, ICSH; Justin O'Brien (on behalf of Paddy O'Duffy), Circle Voluntary Housing Association; David Kelly, Managing Director for Scotland and Ireland, Tunstall; Cllr. Fintan Cooney, Cathaoirleach Westmeath County Council; ICSH Board Member Award Winner, Dan Rogan, Monaghan Branch of Parents & Friends of Persons with an Intellectual Disability; Gene Clayton, ICSH President. Front Row L-R: Olivia White, Mid Offaly Housing Association; Alice Lennon, Callan Community Housing Association; Alice McAuliffe, Dromin/Athlacca Housing Project, Co. Limerick; Dr. Paddy Harte, Oaklee Housing Trust. Absent from photo: James O'Donnell, Ardara Sheltered Housing Association.

Tuesday September 15th 2009

Conference delegates arrived early Tuesday evening for registration and the ICSH Biennial Social Housing Conference was launched with the first session entitled *"Taking the Market' out of Housing"*. The presentation of the ICSH Board Member Awards also took place that evening. This event was inaugurated at the 2007 conference to recognise the outstanding work done by board members within the voluntary housing sector. These events were followed by a wine reception.



L-R: Ciara Morgan, Department of Finance; Patricia Cleary, Housing Association for Integrated Living (HAIL); Julie Nicholas, HAIL



L-R Louise Richardson, Iveagh Trust; Martina Smith, Clanmil Housing Association Ireland; Tina Donaghy, Fold Ireland

Attending the Tuesday evening wine reception L-R: Tony Giffen, Group Head of Housing Operations, Oaklee Housing Group; Leslie Morrell, Board Member, Oaklee Housing; Frank Feely, Chairman, Oaklee Housing Trust; Brian McKenna, Group Head of Corporate Services, Oaklee Housing Group; Jack Allen, Board Member, Oaklee Housing Group; Joan Baird, Board Member, Clanmil Housing Association Ireland; Ursula Maye, Housing Manager, Oaklee Housing Trust .



Wednesday September 16th

Right: Gene Clayton, ICSH President; Minister Michael Finneran, Minister of State for Housing and Local Services and Donal McManus, ICSH Executive Director.
Below: Media coverage of the conference: Minister Finneran is interviewed by RTE News.
Below Right: Delegates attended sessions on various relevant housing issues throughout the Wednesday of the conference.



L-R: Catherine Etchingham, Development Manager, Focus Ireland; Mike Allen, Director of Advocacy, Focus Ireland; Jenny Heath, Services Manager, Focus Ireland; Joyce Loughnan, CEO, Focus Ireland and Karen Murphy, Head of Services, ICSH.

Eddie Lewis, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government addressing the conference.



"The New National Context - Opportunities and Challenges" L-R: David Ireland, CEO, Empty Homes Agency UK; Gene Clayton, ICSH President, (Chair), Eddie Lewis, Principal Officer, Social Housing (Construction and Procurement), DEHLG.



"Housing on the Margins - Making the Policies and Principles Real" L-R: Colette Kelleher, Director, Cork Simon Community, Peter Fredricksson, Ministry for Housing, Finland; Joyce Loughnan, CEO, Focus Ireland; Mairi Keddie, City of Edinburgh Council.

Wednesday September 16th marked a full day of events. The conference was officially opened with a welcome from ICSH president Mr Gene Clayton. One of the main highlights of the day was the attendance of the Minister for Housing Deputy Michael Finneran to launch the much anticipated Grant Thornton review of the Voluntary and Co-operative Housing Sector. The Wednesday sessions raised many important issues for discussion among delegates including current opportunities and challenges faced by housing providers, sustainable energy practices, the current nationwide issue of empty homes and their potential use for social housing. A series of parallel sessions ran until late afternoon and focused on themes such as local authorities and the role of elected members, delivering to tenants, disability and housing and ageing in the community. Later that evening an eventful and entertaining night was had by all who attended the biennial ICSH conference dinner.



Left: Tim McSwiney, Senior Executive Engineer, Tralee Town Council and Gerard Naughton, Senior Engineer, Limerick County Council. Delegates at the conference had the opportunity to view Community Housing Award entries in an exhibition of the housing schemes

Right and far right: Delegates were treated to housing maintenance demonstrations by sponsors B&Q



Pictured with ICSH President Gene Clayton and Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Shelia Buckley - Byrne are the graduates of the 2009 ICSH Certificate in Housing Management and Certificate in Housing Development courses. Graduates were presented with their certificates at the ICSH conference dinner.

Thursday September 17th 2010

Right: Mr Nic Retsinas, Director, Centre for Housing Studies, Harvard University speaking at the consensus session.

Below: L-R: Brian O Gorman, Chief Executive, Clúid Housing Association, Eddie Murphy, Crowley's DFK, John O Connor Affordable Homes Partnership and Bernard Thompson, General Secretary, NABCO were the panelists who provided individual responses to issues raised at the consensus session.



The conference ran for a half day on Thursday 17th September. Two sessions ran until early afternoon and included panel responses as well as a roundtable discussion that allowed delegates to provide feedback on issues affecting housing providers as they move forward. The sessions also covered new initiatives within the sector including private financing and leasing. A special guest on the day was Mr. Nic Retsinas, Director of the Centre for Housing Studies at Harvard University who flew in especially for the event and provided an international perspective on the future of social housing. The conference was brought to an official end by ICSH Executive Director, Mr. Donal McManus, who summarized the various topics which had been brought to the fore by the speakers and participants of the conference.

Below left, centre and right: Delegates debate the way forward for social housing at Thursday's round table discussions



The ICSH would like to sincerely thank all of our conference sponsors and exhibitors who helped to make our 2009 conference such a success.

Our two featured sponsors were Bord Gais Energy and B&Q, while Emergency Response Tunstall were sponsors of the ICSH Board Member Award and Zurich Insurance sponsored the ICSH Community Housing Award



O'Mahony Pike Architects and Homebrokers in partnership with Hyde Park Homes sponsored tea / coffee breaks and conference dinner tables. Oaklee Housing Trust kindly sponsored the conference

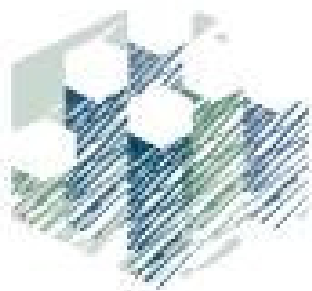


An exhibition of innovative products and services related to developing and managing social housing took place during the conference, providing housing practitioners the opportunity to see these products displayed and demonstrated.



Exhibitors included our featured conference sponsors Bord Gais Energy and B&Q as well as our Board Member Award sponsors Emergency Response Tunstall and conference bag sponsors Oaklee Housing Trust. Other exhibitors included Anki Chimneys, BHP Insurances, Calyx

Software, Clúid Housing Association, Fold Telecare, Helm Housing, Green Homes by IJM, Respond! Housing Association, Stanley Security Solutions and Vokera.



**Irish Council
for Social Housing**

Irish Council for Social Housing

**Biennial Social Housing
Conference**

**Sheraton Hotel, Athlone
September 15th - 17th 2009**

