



Barnsley Older People's Housing Scheme Commended by National Awards

(See photo attached)

Caption: (From left to right) Churchfields Close Scheme manager Lyn Hamnett and residents Barbara Cooke, Elsie Sowerby and Joyce Patterson celebrate after being commended by EAC Awards.



An older people's housing scheme in Barnsley has been commended in the Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC) Awards 2017.

Churchfields Close in Barnsley is one of 79 Schemes to receive this award out of the almost 25,000 retirement housing schemes or developments nationwide.

The awards, now in their 7th year, celebrate the best specialist housing for older people, and aim to help shape the future of housing in later life through engaging over ten thousand residents, staff, visitors and volunteers who were all able to vote for their favourite scheme out of the 1,180 nominated between 15 November 2016 and 28 February 2017.

John Galvin, EAC's Chief Executive, explained the importance of the awards: "Specialist housing for older people plays an enormously significant role in helping them stay independent for longer. The security, support and great communities have a positive impact on individuals and reduce the need for NHS services."

Jill Barker, Community Buildings Manager, said: "We're thrilled to receive a commendation as it means that staff, residents and visitors are really happy with the scheme."

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Editors notes:

Berneslai Homes is the Council's managing agent for the management and maintenance of council housing in Barnsley. They have a track record for excellent performance at value for money cost and in 2015 the Council extended the service agreement for a further five years from April 2016 to March 2021 with the ability for rolling five year extensions. They have been listed in the Sunday Times Top 100 Best Companies to Work For In The Not For Profit Sector for the last four years and achieved the Investors In People Gold Standard. They work closely with many partner agencies within the Sheffield city region and are part of the One Barnsley board.

The organisation is run by a board comprising of a Chair, three councillors, three independents and three tenant members. Berneslai Homes manages approximately 18,655 properties and employs just under 500 employees.

Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC) - is a national charity that helps older people meet their current of anticipated housing and support needs. Its popular website HousingCare.org is visited each day by some 17,000 people, and profiles all retirement housing schemes and care homes in the UK.

The EAC Awards will be celebrated at Edgbaston Cricket Ground, Birmingham on 16th May 2017 where the bronze, silver and gold awards winners will be announced.