Press release

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For Immediate Release

Red Kite Community Housing warms homes this winter with successful fuel voucher scheme

Red Kite Community Housing has successfully completed its winter fuel support scheme, providing much-needed financial assistance to nearly 200 tenants struggling with rising energy costs and resulting in thousands of pounds being awarded to tenants.

The initiative, launched in November in response to the Government's surprise decision to stop winter fuel at short notice, has been praised by both tenants and Buckinghamshire Council for its effectiveness and positive impact.

The scheme targeted vulnerable tenants of state retirement age, not receiving other benefits, and living in homes with lower Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings. People who met the criteria were invited to apply for energy vouchers to offset their energy bills.

Red Kite partnered with Charis, a trusted administrator for essential funds and grants, whose website and support team proved invaluable in managing the distribution of vouchers.

"We're incredibly proud of the positive impact this scheme has had on our tenants," said Todd Ricketts, Head of Community at Red Kite. "We know that the rising cost of living is a real concern, and we wanted to do everything we could to alleviate some of that pressure during the winter months. The feedback we've received has been overwhelmingly positive, with many tenants expressing their gratitude for the extra support."

Buckinghamshire Council has recognised the success of the approach developed by Red Kite and agreed to provide funding for this scheme from the DWP's Household Support Fund. Due to the benefits this has brought to Red Kite tenants, Buckinghamshire Council and Red Kite worked with other housing associations to share the details of this approach and replicate this in other areas.

"The work that Red Kite has led has been fantastic to provide assistance to elderly tenants during the winter period, and we are proud to have worked with Red Kite to support this and enable other housing associations to do the same. Buckinghamshire Council has targeted our use of the Household Support Fund to support pensioners during the colder months, and through working with Red Kite we will reach over 1,400 pensioners across the county." Councillor Arif Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities at Buckinghamshire Council.

The positive feedback from tenants speaks volumes about the scheme's impact. Comments included: "Thank you for the help with the winter fuel payment which you so very kindly offered. It has been most helpful in boosting my credit for the coming cold months. Every penny helps. I

am most grateful, thank you again," and "Red Kite has gone above and beyond helping with these winter fuel vouchers. I am especially thankful for your help."

Red Kite remains committed to supporting its tenants and will continue to explore initiatives that address the challenges of the rising cost of living.

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Notes to editor:

More about Red Kite:

- Red Kite Community Housing is a tenant-led, not for profit, charitable housing organisation that was formed on 12 December 2011
- Red Kite owns and manages more than 6,500 homes in the Wycombe district and surrounding area
- Red Kite's mission is building communities where people want to live, with tenants and leaseholders at the heart of everything we do
- We have a vision to have an outstanding reputation for customer care, quality of service and value for money.