

Royal opening of sheltered housing and day centre

Bristol Charities welcomed a visit by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to officially open its new Barstaple Almshouse and Day Centre in Brentry, north Bristol this summer.

Princess Anne was given a guided tour of the specially designed Sheltered Housing flats for older people and visited resident, Mrs Tamasi in her home. She then viewed the Day Centre which provides a place for older people from the local area to relax, socialise and learn new skills. The centre also provides support to people experiencing dementia.

Plaque unveiled

In the presence of trustees, staff, residents, service users and guests, the royal visitor unveiled a plaque marking the official opening of the project following a welcome speech by Andrew Hillman, Chairman of Trustees. Earlier, Princess Anne saw the specially designed

Snoezelen Room. This room provides a range of sensory stimulation that can be tailored to meet the needs of people with dementia, using lighting, colour, sounds, music and aromas.

Guests included Mrs Mary Prior MBE, Lord Lieutenant of the County and City of Bristol (and Patron of Bristol Charities), Dr Ros Kennedy, High Sheriff of Bristol (and a trustee of Bristol Charities), Cllr. Clare Campion-Smith, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, and Mr Ian Campion-Smith, the Lord Mayor's consort. Architects of the building, the Alec French Partnership, also attended.

Princess Anne's visit concludes a busy few years for Bristol Charities, which completed the Barstaple Almshouse in the spring of 2014 and another scheme in Monmouthshire several months earlier. Barstaple Almshouse and Day Centre recently also received the LABC Building Excellence Aware 2015.

Chief Executive, Anne Anketell said that the royal visit was a real morale booster for Bristol Charities as it came at a time when the charity begins a strategy which will see its provision of excellent quality accommodation for older people significantly increase over the next few years.



Trustees' guidance

The Commission has published the final version of its revised core guidance for charity trustees on their duties and responsibilities entitled - *The Essential Trustee: What you Need to Know, What you need to do (CC3)*.

This is a complete rewrite of previous guidance and significant changes have been made to the final version of CC3 to take account of issues raised during a consultation which finished last November. A revised draft was published in March, as reported in issue 238 of the Gazette, spring 2015.

On the whole, all charity trustees and those who advise them should find the revised CC3 helpful. It provides a clearer explanation of what the law and the Commission expect of charity trustees.

New rules on smoke and CO alarms

Landlords are required by law to install working smoke alarms in their properties with effect from 1st October 2015.

Carbon monoxide detectors are also compulsory in properties where there is a solid burning combustion appliance. Penalties for non-compliance could be as much as £5,000. It is considered

that almshouse charities would be regarded in the same way as landlords and the Almshouse Association therefore advises trustees to comply by installing alarms in each almshouse dwelling as well as in communal areas.

Aside from the legal obligation, the installation of the alarms is also considered to be best practice.