

Chairman's Report 2006

This year has proved to be a period of consolidation during which we have continued to build on our fundamental aim of providing quality care within a Christian environment. Despite having to respond to largely the same regulatory and inspection regimes that RSL's with many thousands of units face, we have maintained steady growth and development within the complex and we give thanks to God for all that has been achieved.

Our only area of disappointment has been our inability to really engage with the Local Authority planning for more integrated service delivery. Despite positive and upbeat meetings on site between the Director of Social Services and his staff, events in the wider community have ensured that the Local Authority has been forced to direct its preliminary work towards the larger housing and support organisations. Other developments, such as the threat of closure of Whipps Cross hospital, has similarly forced the Local Authority in to wider more strategic planning with all of its partners, resulting in a small organisation such as ours having to suffer a frustrating wait for decisions to be made.

Against that wider backdrop, the actual day to day work has gone from strength to strength as a direct result of our remarkable staff team so ably and enthusiastically led by Brenda Jones. Brenda will retire at the end of 2007 and this provided us with the opportunity to advertise nationally well in advance for her replacement, as well as providing an opportunity to review the organisational structure needed to best develop the anticipated new relationship with the Local Authority. Consequently, a Registered Manager will be appointed in early 2007 to manage the Care Home and a new post of Chief Executive will be introduced to manage and develop the business aspects of the work. This new role will also include some responsibilities which are currently undertaken by the Committee Members in their voluntary capacities.

As always, the Committee would formally wish to record here our most grateful thanks to all of the staff team for their remarkable individual and collective contributions to the life and work of the complex. Brenda is wonderfully supported by Lisa, Jocelyn & Tonia who are so highly respected as professionals whilst in Sheltered Housing, Jenny remains a source of inspiration and love to so many. We said a fond farewell to Jim Bell who departed following his work as temporary Housing Officer during Sarah's maternity leave and subsequently welcomed Sarah back to her post during the year. Meanwhile, Mina has ensured that the administrative and finance aspects of the work have been properly and efficiently conducted.

I would similarly wish to record my thanks to the Committee of Management for their loyalty, determination and Christian love towards the work of Woodford Baptist Homes. It is their commitment which makes this organisation so fundamentally different from the profit motive businesses that seem to circle around us. I salute all of them for their impressive contributions.

We praise God for another successful year in the life of the Complex and continue to pray for His guidance during the coming months and years ahead as we look forward to developing and growing in our service to the local community.

Peter Townrow
Hon. Secretary