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Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB

## **APPG on Almshouses**

### **How did almshouses perform during the Coronavirus pandemic?**

**Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 - 2pm-3pm, via Zoom**

1. Jack Baldan (JB), Assistant Policy and Engagement Officer for The Almshouse Association opened the meeting and introduced Nick Phillips (NP), Chief Executive of The Almshouse Association.
2. NP outlined the role of almshouses and the resilience of the membership in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic
3. JB introduced Paul Mullis, Durham Aged Mineworkers Homes Association, who provided his insights into how the strong community aspect of the almshouse model allowed for a more effective response. Paul also noted the need for greater recognition of almshouses so that they are better understood during times of emergency.
4. JB introduced Juliet Ames-Lewis, Richmond Charities, who discussed how the charity responded through increased contact with residents, with this personal touch proving vital in properly addressing the needs of all residents. However it was noted that the support has led to a more long term dependency now restrictions are lifted. Agreed with Paul that wider recognition of the almshouse model is sorely needed.
5. JB introduced Andrew Barnes, The Great Hospital, who supported the comments of the previous speakers and emphasised the importance of strong relationships in ensuring residents were kept safe and secure
6. Q&A session with discussions including the return of residents from hospital without negative Coronavirus tests as well as managing voids during the pandemic.
7. JB thanked all the speakers and those who participated and closed the meeting.