

Background information

The Abbeyfield movement has been in existence for over 50 years. Its founder was Richard Carr Gomm who established the first house in London for older, lonely, vulnerable people to live in a safe and homely environment. The Abbeyfield movement grew fairly rapidly and approximately 700 houses throughout the UK were established, mostly as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), and were managed and run by volunteers.

With significant changes in legislation, volunteer fatigue as well as the difficulty of finding new volunteers the movement recognised radical change was required and chose to embrace mergers.

After two years of planning and working with the various regulators Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd was created on 31 October 2007 as a result of a merger between the Abbeyfield Society for Scotland and the Dumfries Society. A further 29 societies merged with Abbeyfield Scotland on 31 March 2008. Below are listed our current properties:

Bridge of Allan Coatbridge Dumfries Giffnock Greenock - Esplanade	Haddington Killearn Lenzie Lockerbie Nairn	North Berwick Stonehaven Torphins Turrieff
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Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd provides "very sheltered housing" throughout Scotland. We are registered:

- as a social landlord with The Scottish Housing Regulator ;
- as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator and
- with the Care Inspectorate for the provision of housing support and care at home services.

All of these organisations set high standards which we have to meet. Like other RSLs, we have members who hold a £1 share and a voluntary Management Board elected from among the members. The Board is responsible for the overall business of the association.

Each house has a team of dedicated staff which provides day-to-day services to tenants. They are supported by housing officers and a small central team of administrative, finance and management staff at the centre. We provide high standards of accommodation, companionship and a support service designed to promote independence. We also provide a warm and welcoming environment within a communal setting and with individual living areas where tenants have their own room, with their own furniture and private possessions. There is no institutional feel to our houses which accommodate between 6 and 12 tenants.

Abbeyfield Scotland's key aim is to create a unified, vibrant and successful organisation that will work in partnership with other organisations including Local Authorities and Health Trusts.