Eden Housing Association Signs the LGBTQ+ Housing Pledge, by HouseProud and delivered by Stonewall Housing

Housing Pledge, reaffirming its commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion for its customers, colleagues and communities.

The pledge, delivered by Stonewall Housing, brings together social housing providers from across the country to drive meaningful improvements in services and support for LGBTQ+ residents and colleagues.

Eden formally completed its sign-up process in May 2026, marking an important step forward in strengthening its inclusive culture and ensuring that everyone feels safe, respected and supported in their homes and workplaces.

Speaking about the announcement, Chris Fawcett, Chief Executive of Eden Housing Association, said:

"Signing the LGBTQ+ Housing Pledge is a really important milestone for Eden. It reflects our values as a community-based organisation and our belief that everyone deserves to feel safe, valued and included in their home and their community.

We already have strong foundations in equality, diversity and inclusion, but this commitment will help us go further challenging ourselves, learning from others, and continuing to improve the way we support LGBTQ+ residents and colleagues."

What the Pledge Means:

The LGBTQ+ Housing Pledge is a national scheme originally created by HouseProud to improve outcomes for LGBTQ+ people in social housing. By signing up, Eden has committed to working towards recognised standards of inclusion, with a structured framework to evidence progress and impact.

As part of the scheme, organisations work towards "Pledge Pioneer" status, demonstrating real and measurable change across a range of areas. Eden has 12 months to evidence delivery against a set of requirements, selecting at least five key actions to achieve this accreditation.

Working Towards Pledge Pioneer Status
Eden Housing Association is building on its existing equality, diversity and inclusion work to achieve Pledge Pioneer status. Key areas of focus include:

1. Strengthening Resident Voice and Inclusion
Eden is committed to ensuring LGBTQ+ residents have a clear voice in shaping services. This includes developing resident engagement structures that actively promote inclusion and create safe spaces for feedback and participation.
2. Leadership and Visible Commitment

Our Board Member champion will help the organisation to lead and advocate for LGBTQ+ inclusion. This will ensure strong leadership accountability and visible commitment at executive and board level.

3. Embedding Inclusion in Strategy and Reporting
Eden will formally embed its commitment to the pledge within its annual report and key organisational strategies, demonstrating transparency and sustained focus on equality and diversity.

4. Raising Awareness and Promoting the Pledge
The organisation will actively publish articles and communications highlighting its involvement in the pledge, increasing awareness across its communities and encouraging wider sector engagement.

5. Working with local partners
Eden will work with our local partners and charities to promote equality and tackle discrimination.

6. Enhancing Training and Workforce Development
Eden will continue to strengthen its training offer, ensuring that diversity and inclusion learning for staff explicitly covers LGBTQ+ issues and supports colleagues to deliver inclusive services.

Making a Difference for Rural Communities
As a rural housing provider, Eden recognises the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in smaller and more dispersed communities, where access to support networks can be limited.

A Continued Commitment to Inclusion
Eden's decision to join the LGBTQ+ Housing Pledge reflects a broader strategic priority to strengthen equality, diversity and inclusion across the organisation.

The pledge provides access to expert guidance, sector-wide learning, and collaboration opportunities that will support continuous improvement.

Over the coming year, Eden will work closely with the HouseProud network and staff from Stonewall Housing, gathering evidence of impact and sharing learning with peers, as it progresses towards achieving Pledge Pioneer status in 2027.