

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Housing Ombudsman to join Women's Pioneer as CEO**

Women's Pioneer Housing, one of London's original housing associations, is delighted to announce the appointment of Denise Fowler as its new chief executive.

Denise will join in June 2017 from her current role as the Housing Ombudsman. She succeeds Janet Davies who is leaving the 1,000-home landlord in April after 25 years.

Maureen Hopcroft, chair of Women's Pioneer Housing, said: 'We would like to thank Janet for guiding Women's Pioneer successfully through the last two decades – she leaves us in a strong position.'

'Denise will now lead the delivery of our ambitious plans. She brings an impeccable pedigree, with her time at the Housing Ombudsman providing a unique perspective on our sector. We look forward to working with Denise through the next stage of our evolution and towards our centenary in 2020.'

Women's Pioneer was founded in Kensington and Chelsea in 1920 with the aim of providing homes for 'professional and other women of moderate means who require individual homes at moderate rents'.

Since buying its first property in Ladbroke Gardens, west London, Women's Pioneer has continued investing in homes to meet the needs of single women.

Today it retains its Kensington and Chelsea focus and works to leverage its £400-million property portfolio to ensure it provides further affordable accommodation for women in the heart of London.

Denise Fowler, the incoming chief executive of Women's Pioneer, starts her new role on 5 June 2017. She said: 'This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to lead an organisation with such a great history, and potential to develop and grow.'

'I am very proud of all I have achieved as Housing Ombudsman over the last two years with the support of my colleagues. For the next three months I will continue to focus on my role as Housing Ombudsman.'

'I then look forward to starting an exciting new challenge in June. I could not pass up the opportunity of leading Women's Pioneer, an organisation with such a unique history and such potential to do so much for women in need of housing in London. Providing a voice for women's housing is as relevant today as it was in 1920.'

'I look forward to working with the excellent team at Women's Pioneer to deliver high-quality homes for women in our capital's challenging housing market.'

**For further information contact:**

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**Editor's note:**

- During the next three months if any complaints against Women's Pioneer are brought to the Ombudsman they will be dealt with by members of the Ombudsman's team and Denise will have no personal involvement
- Pictures of Denise Fowler are available on request