

# Strategic Alliance

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Further to a number of formal discussions throughout spring and summer 2013, GEAR Project's Board of Trustees agreed to form a strategic alliance with Elim Housing Association.



The strategic alliance took effect on the retirement of GEAR Project's Chair of the Trustees and Chief Executive on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. Two members of Elim Housing's Executive team and two Elim Board members subsequently joined GEAR Project's Board of Trustees.

Since the closure of GEAR's residential night shelter in February 2013, we have been heavily dependent on charitable donations and grant giving organisations, and it has become very apparent that GEAR needs to undertake a significant change in the way in which it operates and delivers services in order to overcome this shortage in funding and continue as a viable organisation.

Since September 2013 Elim Housing has provided strategic support and services to assist GEAR Projects to develop a viable business plan for the future. Reflecting the financial challenges GEAR is currently facing, continuing discussions with Elim will focus on organisational structure, staffing and potential development opportunities that will enable the future provision of key services that meet the needs of vulnerable homeless and vulnerably housed people in Gloucestershire.