

Conference Programme



9.30 – Registration

10.15 – Chair's welcome

10.30 – Keynote: Kick It Out

Hear from a representative from Kick It Out about the work they have done to improve diversity and inclusion in football. The campaign has won awards for its work in ensuring racism is stamped out of the game, wherever it is found.

11.00 – Empowering women in housing

Chair: Alison Inman, CIH President
Speakers: Sinead Butters, PlaceShapers Chair and Aspire CEO; Michelle Reid, Cynon Taff CEO and Tai Pawb Chair; Jane Nelson, Mears Executive Director; Molly Bishop, 24housing Young Leader 2017 and Stockport Homes Charity Development Officer and Nicola Dibb, Women in Social Housing CEO.

This session will look at what the sector has achieved in ensuring there is equal representation across the workplace, as well as looking at what more can and should be done to ensure gender does not have any bearing on whether or not a person achieves in the sector.

11.45 – Refreshments and networking

12.00 – LGBT inclusion

Chair: John Giesen, Tpas Chair and former B3 Living CEO
Speakers: Stonewall UK representative, Tina Wathern, Stonewall Housing, Metropolitan Housing Association representative, John Glenton, Riverside Executive Director of Care and Support.

This session will explore how housing associations can make their organisations more LGBT friendly. Whether this is in terms of employment or providing a working atmosphere where an LGBT individual can feel comfortable. It will look at some good examples from organisations such as Metropolitan and Riverside, as well as outside the sector with Stonewall UK.

12.45 – Lunch and networking

13.30 – Importance of accessible homes

Chair: Mark Lawrence, 24housing Editor
Speakers: Sheron Carter, Habinteg CEO; Alicja Zalesinska, Tai Pawb Director; Angela Avill-Birch, Tenant and long term carer; (more to be announced)

This session will look at the need for more accessible housing in the UK. Speakers will be discussing what more can be done for disabled people, whether it is more accessible provision in new-builds or retrofitting.

14.15 – Empowering BME individuals in work and the community

Chair: Tom Murtha, former CEO
Speakers: Darwin Bernardo, 24housing Young Leader runner up and Nutmeg Founder; Ali Akbor, Unity CEO; Steve Douglas, Altair Co-Chief Executive; Raj Patel, Housing Diversity Network CEO (more to be announced)

This session will explore how housing organisations can better empower BME individuals within their organisation and in the communities in which they serve. This will look at a range of initiatives, such as examples from a tenant perspective and mentoring and training programmes.

15.00 – Refreshments and networking

15.15 – Rethinking 'refugee'

Chair: Fuad Mahamed, Ashley Community Housing CEO
Speakers: Ashley Horsey, Commonwealth Housing CEO; Arhag representative (more to be announced)

This session will focus on what housing providers are doing with their refugee community. The session will showcase some of the best practice in this field and share lessons to what more can be done to ensure refugees play a positive part in society.

16.00 – Round up

16.15 – Close