Equality & Diversity Conference 2012

A joint event between the Housing Diversity Network and Chartered Institute of Housing

11th July 2012, CIH London Office

9.20 Registration and Refreshments

10.00 Chairs welcome and introduction
Clifton Robinson, Chief Executive, Housing Diversity Network

10.10 How far have we come in 10 years?
Trevor Philips, Equality & Human Rights Commission
In the light of the Stephen Lawrence court case earlier this year and also in the light of 2012 being HDN’s 10th Anniversary, how far as a nation we have moved over the last 10 years in terms of equality and diversity?

10.40 A new direction for housing organisations?
Neil McInroy, Chief Executive, Centre for Local Economic Strategies
How is the sector coping with emerging Government policy such as welfare benefit reform, localism and housing grant cutbacks? Are there significant trends? What does good practice look like in this harsh environment? Neil will highlight joint HDN/CLES research and key findings.

11.05 Diversity Network Accreditation Award
Presented to Peter Mercer, Chief Executive, Golden Gates Housing Trust by Trevor Phillips, Chair, EHRC

11.15 Refreshments

11.30 “Hidden in Plain Sight” (EHRC Formal Inquiry into Disability Related Harassment)
Paul Gamble, Chief Executive, Habinteg Housing Association
David Renwick, Group Chief Executive, Ocean Housing
John Thornhill, Policy & Practice Officer, Chartered Institute of Housing
Last year the EHRC report revealed how far entrenched negative attitudes towards disabled people are. This panel debate will look at changes in approach in recent years and what more needs to be done.

12.20 Diversity Network Accreditation and Equality & Diversity Charter
Yvonne Davies, Consultant
John Thornhill, Policy & Practice Officer, Chartered Institute of Housing
This session will discuss what’s happening regarding equality and diversity in the sector now regulation has gone. The CIH will present work they are developing towards an equality and diversity charter for the housing sector, and the HDN will explain their new accreditation product.

13.10 Lunch
Workshop Sessions:

1. Promoting the role of BME housing associations  
Duncan Aitkens, Housing Services Manager, Arneway Housing Co-op Ltd  
This workshop will debate and discuss the role that local authorities have to play in promoting BME associations through their housing strategies.

2. Innovative solutions for older LBGT people  
Stonewall Housing  
It is increasingly important for service providers to know how best to serve and support older people as the aging lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender cohort is expanding along with the rest of the older population. This workshop will showcase innovative ways of working to deliver practical solutions.

3. Releasing talent for the future through mentoring  
Kulbir Shergill, Deputy Director, Diversity and Inclusiveness, Genesis Housing Association &  
Juliet Hancock, HR Consultant (formerly at TSA and Housing Corporation)  
This workshop will give you the chance to explore the role and benefits of mentoring in releasing talent, building confidence and breaking down barriers to development. There will be the chance to discuss different types of mentoring programmes and relationships and practical steps to ensure mentors, mentees and organisations maximise these.

4. EHRC Formal Inquiry into Race Discrimination in the Construction Industry  
Sandra Blake-Johnson, Head of Enterprise and Regeneration Policy, EHRC &  
Bola Abisogun (MRICS), CEO, Urbanis  
This session will look at the EHRC’s Formal Inquiry into Race Discrimination in the construction industry.

15.20  
Chairs closing remarks  
The HDN award for Innovation in Equality and Diversity Practice, for hosting the most inventive and impactful diversity day event, will also be presented by Clifton Robinson.

15.30  
Conference close  

* Programme may be subject to minor changes