



Chartered
Institute of
Housing

Welcome to

RETHINKING
SOCIAL
HOUSING

workshops

It's a crucial time for the social housing sector.

Our housing crisis is as severe as it has ever been. The Grenfell Tower tragedy has thrust social housing into the spotlight and the government's position on housing, and its approach to the social housing sector in particular, has changed significantly in recent months.

But what is the role and purpose of social housing today? What do people think social housing should be? What is the real value of social housing to society? How can providers of social housing make sure their work is relevant and responsive to the peoples' housing needs? And how can government support social housing to maximise its potential to provide many of the solutions to our housing crisis?

These and other fundamental questions lie at the heart of *Rethinking social housing*.

To kick off the project, we want to start a national discussion about what social housing is, its value and who it is for.

To do this we are asking anyone who lives or works in social housing, and anyone who is interested, to take part in a national debate that gets us all talking about these important questions.

You can find all of the details on how to get involved in our toolkit and download all of the resources you need from our website - it's really easy and your feedback will form a crucial part of the project. We will be publishing the results and feeding into the government's green paper - so your voice really will matter.

This is a chance to have your say and help to drive the social housing sector forward at this defining time. We really hope you will join us.

Thank you

**Terrie Alafat CBE, chief executive of the
Chartered Institute of Housing.**

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What is the workshop?

The *Rethinking social housing* workshop is an interactive session which gives you the chance to have your say and feed into the debate on social housing.

It can be completed by small or large groups, it is easy to run and can be completed in around an hour and 30 minutes.

Participants take part in a short series of focused discussions aimed at helping them to contribute answers to fundamental questions about social housing.

We have produced some easy instructions and slides to make it easy for anyone to run the workshop.

At the end of the workshop the facilitator fills out a simple form and returns it to us. This will feed directly into the project and collectively inform a series of recommendations to government and to the housing sector.



How many people can take part?

The workshop has been designed to be suitable for small or large groups, though we do recommend groups of no more than 50. More detail on how to easily tailor the delivery of the workshop depending on the size of the group you are working with is provided in the instructions.

If you work for an organisation you may wish to run the session a number of times with different groups and report each group's results independently.





Who can take part?

Anyone who lives and works in social housing and anyone who is interested.

The workshop is about giving you a voice.

So whether you are a housing association or local authority housing team, a charity or other housing-related organisation or you are a tenant group or a mixture of housing professionals and tenants, the workshop will still work - in fact, the wider the perspective the better.

Whether you work in a research team and want to run the workshop with your colleagues, or you live in a housing scheme and would like to deliver this with your fellow tenants - the workshop is suitable.

To make sure we can establish trends and analyse the results we get, the facilitator will be asked to record certain information - but no details which could identify individuals will be recorded and the results will be anonymous.

Why take part?

The results of the project will be published and form the basis of a series of recommendations to the government and to the housing sector as a whole.

Though it is independent we will also be using the outcome of the research to guide our response to the government's housing green paper. So this is a real opportunity to have a voice and shape the future of social housing.

We understand that it is easy to lose sight of the bigger picture of an organisation's work and the contribution that each individual makes by working, or indeed living, in social housing.

As well as being a great opportunity to shape this project, we hope that this will be a great opportunity to bring staff and/or tenants together and have a lively discussion which gets to the heart of the purpose of social housing and the work that you or your organisation does.

How do I take part?

It's really easy; just visit cih.org/rethinkingsocialhousing to download our simple step-by-step instructions and other resources.

You'll also find more information and contact details for our team if you want to talk to someone.