

CANDIDATE PROFILE



DARSHAN MATHAROO

Darshan is the vice chair of Stoke-based housing provider Empowering People in Communities (Epic) and an independent board member of Pioneer Group in Birmingham. His career in housing spans more than three decades and he has been a member of CIH for 32 years.



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am vice chair of Empowering People in Communities based in Stoke-on-Trent, an independent board member of Pioneer Group in Birmingham and a trustee/treasurer of Women Acting in Today's Society - a charity specialising in providing domestic abuse services in the Birmingham and Sandwell areas.

My passion for social housing, equality and diversity and the housing profession is still as strong as the day I started my first job as housing adviser – ethnic minorities with Anchor Housing Association in 1984.

In my experience, if you put people at the heart of what you do, you will create something unique. I fully support the work of the CIH, its ideals and values and I have been an active, serving member for over 32 years.

I have undertaken a number of roles at both branch and national levels. At branch level I have served as membership and events officer, education and training officer and chair. At national level I previously served nine years on the management board and chaired the learning and professional development board.

I also chaired CIH's Equality and Diversity Advisory Group and was national CIH treasurer for two years. I also presented the student awards at the CIH presidential dinners and was a judge of UK Housing Awards. I continue to sit on the interview panel for the Experienced Professional Route for CIH membership.

I have senior-level experience of delivering housing, care and support services and regeneration for over 32 years for both local authorities and housing associations. I have worked for the Welsh Government as the regulator for RSLs in Wales; local authority/housing associations in Birmingham/Stoke-on-Trent/Bristol and the Housing Corporation in London.

As a committed fellow of CIH, I relish the opportunity to support CIH members in providing education and training to develop people, enhance skills, share best practice and provide the tools necessary to deliver excellent services.

The housing sector is going through one of its most fundamental periods of change, due to the current economic climate, which is presenting challenges for the people working in housing, providers of social housing and our tenants.

It is therefore important CIH continues to put the needs of its members at the heart of its business by increasing the size and impact of our profession and continue lobbying and influencing, even harder, the government and other policy makers for more social housing.

As vice president I would champion the difference the social housing makes to the quality of life and life chances of individuals and families and help make the case for the need to provide more affordable homes across the UK.

I would promote the excellent work that many housing organisations and local authorities are doing to provide diverse and wide range of housing, support and care services and regenerate diverse and multi-cultural communities they serve.

I believe I possess the ability and experience necessary to successfully represent the CIH as vice president and play my part in supporting Jim Strang, our incoming president.

I would be honoured to represent CIH, its members and the wider sector.