

NEWSLETTER



BOARD DIVERSITY CONFERENCE SPECIAL

Last week we were in sunny Manchester for our first ever Board Diversity Conference and it was fantastic to see such a strong turnout in the face of turmoil on the rail networks. And the positive vibes generated by debate in breakout groups, questions fielded by our superb speakers and the free flowing network opportunities made it an enjoyable and productive day for us all.

Host Alison Inman implored us to be brave when we ask questions of the Board and she shared her optimism for the future at the end of the day. And the thought provoking and insightful words from our key note speakers had plenty of giveaways. Suki Kalirai has spent 25 years in senior executive roles in organisations including Coca-Cola and has been a past advisor to the United Nations Secretary General for Sustainable Development, and he advises potential board members to become resilient. Don't underestimate the time it may take to become a board member and understand that any criticism you face is of the role... and not you.

Wayne Brown, Chief Fire Officer at West Midlands Fire Service gave an inspiring account of progress in his organisation; the Most Inclusive Employer in the Midlands. Wayne explained how he targeted the recruitment approach to under-represented groups, using creative social media content and practical initiatives such as 'have a go days' with physical training, to tackle the biggest barrier to entry for women.

The ever entertaining and passionate Karl George talked of his DRIVERS for progress - Diversity, Responsibility, Integrity, Value, Equity, Reality and Society. And we thank our main sponsors Devonshire Solicitors, who teamed up with Calico Homes, ranked the 2nd Most Inclusive Employer in 2022, to chair a fascinating breakout on governance and board diversity.

Thanks to everyone who came and for all your contributions.

SMP 2023/24 REGISTRATION IS ABOUT TO OPEN

We are pleased to announce the first registration period for the 2023/24 Staff Mentoring Programme opens on Monday, 17th April and closes 5pm, Friday 30th June. Please speak to your employer if you wish to be nominated.

We will announce the 23 - 24 winter cohort registration dates in due course for anyone who misses the first window. Any queries; do get in touch at:

mentoring@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk.



EVENTS



HDN/NHC Webinar: Race Equality in Housing

Join our panellists as they discuss current race inequalities in housing and what can be done across the sector to make improvements

[More Info](#)



Cultural Awareness Training Workshop

This workshop overview of barriers that individuals from Gypsy and Traveller communities face, with a run-through of good practice examples.

[More Info](#)

[For details of ALL our events CLICK HERE](#)

NOW HIRING



Deputy Chair

[ForHousing](#) are looking for a Deputy Chair to join their board who will have an aptitude for corporate governance as well as expertise in business transformation, risk management and organisational strategy.

[Find our More Here](#)



Chair Of Board

[Sapphire Independent Housing](#) are looking to recruit a Chair with significant non-executive (ideally chair) and leadership experience in a regulated sector, who shares their passion for housing.

[Find our More Here](#)



Chair

[Greatwell Homes](#) are looking for a chair, who will work closely with other Board members and their executive team. You'll map out how they can support great communities where people live well, and measure their progress against this commitment.

[Find our More Here](#)



Board Members

We are looking for four new Board members to help develop and oversee our next business plan as we navigate a challenging external environment. Whilst these roles are voluntary positions, you'll have the satisfaction of joining a dynamic

organisation, passionate about making a lasting difference to lives and communities.
We want people who share our vision and values.

[Find our More Here](#)

What We Do at HDN

Contact us to see if we can help



We work with organisations on a range of equality, diversity and inclusion issues. These include management and leadership training, board and executive team discussions on Black Lives Matter and/or the pandemic, and reviewing and helping on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plans and Strategies.

Contact [Mushtaq Khan](#) for further details.

WHAT THE TEAM'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

We couldn't help but notice the pickle the BBC got into over impartiality and freedom of speech, after Match of the Day host Gary Lineker waded into the migrant debate following home secretary Suella Braverman's latest attempt to 'stop the boats.'

Impartiality is a sticky subject for the Beeb whose chairman, Richard Sharp, not all that long ago arranged a guarantor for a loan for former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, so the timing of Lineker's suspension was awkward to say the least.

The BBC, much like the NHS, has become a political football and it remains to be seen if Lineker is ready to kick his Match of the Day contract into the stands.

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