

NEWSLETTER



STAFF MENTORING PROGRAMME CELEBRATION SPECIAL

On a sunny Thursday in June there is no better place to be than Birmingham when the HDN SMP Celebration comes to town; and so it was last week as we joined our brilliant mentees, mentors and associates at the ThinkTank at the Science Museum in England's second city.

It was a chance for us to celebrate the successes of the 2021/22 cohort and, boy, did we do that!

Mentoring is one of the cornerstones of what we do here at HDN, and it's a real and practical way in which we try to help people in the housing sector, from any background, to gain confidence and to realise their potential. Stories were swapped and brilliant presentations made as we learned of so many successes from the past year.

Martin Littleboy from Sovereign Housing, also known as 'the tallest Ninja in Basingstoke' delivered a great talk on how to really discover who you are, and to be the best that you can be. We all perform so many roles in our work and home lives but, as Martin said, when you understand fully the person you are, you can then realise your potential. Martin is one of an impressive number of 2021/22 mentees who have been successful with job applications this year, jobs that they may not have applied for in the past.

The gratitude and respect flooding in the direction of our mentors was a constant theme in the beautifully crafted 'In Conversation' presentation by our mentees NatalieSamuels, Tanique Daley, Pav Johal, Dorrett Miller, Lynne Riddoch and Folasade Sangobiyi, and that was a theme which continued throughout the day.

The always enlightening Joanne Lockwood gave her perspective on the power of mentoring, in work life and personal life, speaking candidly of a listening friend at the time of her transition and of her personal trainer at the gym she joined in January...and still attends!

So congratulations to all our 2021/22 mentees and we hope you enjoyed the day, and well done also to those who couldn't make the day but have equally done us, and themselves, proud.

And let's take away the big message of the day. Mentoring gives you a friend, a guide, the skills, the strategies and, most of all, the confidence to be the best that you can be.

Respect to you all.

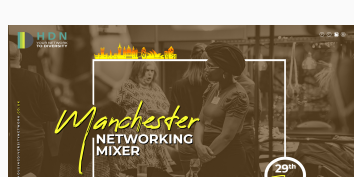
THE POWER OF NETWORKING



On the eve of the celebration, we learned a lot about smart networking at our Wednesday night mixer, in association with Women in Social Housing Midlands and sponsored by our good friends at Devonshires Solicitors. Speaker Karl George told us he was tingly about corporate governance and gave some superb tips on how to network and learn quickly about the people we are talking to.

It was great to see some old friends and make some new ones and have the opportunity to spend a couple of hours mixing. Networking is all about people, relationships and finding ways to help each other and as the 'In Conversation' group at the SMP Conference group said: "Be authentic and be yourself."

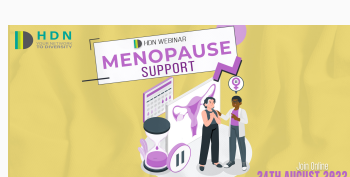
EVENTS



HDN Networking Mixer Manchester

We're at the CIH Conference in Manchester and would love you to join us at our HDN reception.

[More Info](#)



HDN Webinar: Menopause Support

In this webinar we discuss why is menopause a silent issue in many organisations? And we can do to improve it

[More Info](#)



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Train the Trainer Session (Online Session)

A training session hosted by HDN associate Anne-Marie Train the Trainer session Understanding the power of inclusive language

[More Info](#)

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

NOW HIRING



Board Members

Waltham Forest Housing Association are looking to replace two of their dedicated Board members who are stepping down having come to the end of their tenure. They are looking for people who can bring further diversity of thought to their organisation. Find out 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

Food was on the agenda (as usual) as the team met in Birmingham, and Stu is still finding it hard to accept that Carla hates olives, even though a straw poll at the SMP conference revealed that she is far from alone. In turn, Carla discovered that deep-fried Mars bars are a delicacy from Scotland, not really Yorkshire, while Shuang confessed she can't tell which fish and chips are good, as she thinks they all taste the same...bland.

Moreen has the answer. It's all about the freshness of the fish and the crispness of the batter, her favourite being a chippy in Brighton. Our northern contingent bets it doesn't sell gravy to go on the chips though!