

Introducing our speakers



We are delighted to welcome our speakers and have set out a short biography for each of them below

Domini Gunn-Peim

Director of Health and Well Being: Chartered Institute of Housing

Domini is CIH Director of Health and Well Being. She is leading on the development and delivery of a wide range of CIH tools and products to support the housing sector in developing and delivering a collaborative and partnership approach to housing policy and practice.

She is working across the sector, and with health and social care, to ensure a greater recognition of the contribution of good quality housing and support to achieving improved health and wellbeing for individuals and communities. Prior to joining CIH in 2011 Domini worked at the Audit Commission as the national lead for vulnerable communities and a lead housing inspector.

Domini chaired the Hospital 2 Home Advisory Group and is a trustee of Care & Repair (England). She has had papers published in a number of journals and participated in international projects in Ireland, Poland, France, Spain, Germany and Nicaragua.

Kevin McGeough

Senior Strategy Manager Homes and Communities Agency

Kevin McGeough is the Senior Strategy Manager "Sustainable Development" within the Homes and Communities Agency, which includes having a national overview for older person's issues. Kevin's role is to ensure that HCA investment and enabling activity is focused to support all residents through the delivery of high quality homes in great places throughout England.

Kevin is an Architect and Urban Designer, and was Project Manager for the *HAPPI Report (Housing our Ageing Population: panel for innovation)*. Kevin has recently helped to develop and launch the Care and Support for Specialised Housing Fund with the Department of Health.

Kevin has also led a number of national good practice publications including; "*Urban Design Compendium 2; Delivering Quality Places*"; "*Car Parking: what works where*", and "*Meeting Local Housing demand – a guide for elected members*"

Annys Dharkwa

Managing Director Vision Housing

Annys's mission is simple: Prevent re-offending by providing sustainable accommodation and support for vulnerable people. Against all odds Annys set up Vision Housing in 2007 with just £59 a week JSA, a mobile phone and a car. Today it is a thriving social enterprise, a limited company and a registered charity.

Annys is gifted with the entrepreneurial skill to make a big impact on a small budget. To date Vision Housing has assisted nearly 1,000 ex offenders, substance misusers and people with mental health issues in and around London.

Intrigued by her achievements Interserve have supported Vision Housing by carrying out some pioneering research, from Manchester Metropolitan University. The results prove an 11 per cent reduction in re-offending (for those housed).

This is the first UK study to establish an evidential links between housing, on-going support and a reduction in re-offending. In context, if achieved nationally, the reduction in re-offending of 11 per cent would have the potential to save the UK taxpayer around £1billion per year!

And who better to nurture Vision's mission than people that have been there? Uniquely, Vision is mainly run by ex offenders as Annys has taken many of her clients under her wing employing them firstly as voluntary and, as the company grew, into PAYE. A full copy of Annys's biography is on your tables.

Professor Richard Tomlins

Professor Richard Tomlins is Director of Cohesia, a leading training and consultancy organisation. Richard is a nationally recognised expert in equalities, community cohesion, regeneration and social inclusion having worked to the Secretary of State in DCLG as well as driving business gains through commissioning, procurement and social value. He is also a skilled meeting facilitator.

Previously Professor of Race, Diversity and Housing at Leicester De Montfort University, he is now also a Visiting Professor at Coventry University.

Richard is well known for his innovative and ground breaking consultancy, training and research. He works directly with communities on the same issues and this enables him to offer a wider and different perspective to his clients.

He is currently working on an innovative Social Return on Investment (SROI) pilot around commissioning and regeneration and for Community Health Partnerships on driving value from the health estate.

A full copy of Richard's biography is on your tables

Vic Rayner CEO Sitra

Vic is CEO of Sitra, a leading national membership body championing excellence in housing care and support.

Vic has many years experience of working in both the wider voluntary and community sector as well as the housing sector and has access to a wide range of networks and information which enable Sitra to provide quality services to members based strongly around models of good practice.

Vic sits on the HCA Vulnerable and Older Peoples advisory panel, the Right to Control Advisory Group and project board, DCLG payment by results and personalisation steering groups.

Vic has a specialism in management development and has provided a wide range of management programmes within the voluntary and community sector. Vic has an MBA (Distinction), MA and BA (Hons) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. She is also a qualified verifier and assessor.

Jake Eliot Policy leader National Housing Federation (NHF)

Jake Eliot leads the Federation's policy work on health, social care and support for vulnerable and older people. The National Housing Federation is the trade body for housing associations in England and exists to support and promote the work that housing associations do and campaigns for better housing and neighbourhoods. Prior to joining the Federation, Jake was a consultant in strategy and impact at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

He has worked as a researcher in the House of Lords and for an educational social enterprise and has several years' experience of working in the voluntary sector in different policy and project management roles. He also is chair of a voluntary arts and culture agency for London

Mary Mason CEO Solace Women's Aid

Mary has been Director of Solace Women's Aid for 9 years having led a merger of Camden, Enfield and Islington Women's Aid 5 years ago.

Solace Women's Aid supports women and children affected by Domestic and Sexual Violence and the organisation now works across London with dedicated services in 9 London boroughs and pan London services which include refuge, counselling, advocacy, legal, advice and family and children services. Solace also runs North London Rape Crisis.

Mary has worked in the VAWG sector for over 20 years, is a qualified family law solicitor and has been actively involved with numerous campaigns on the social equality and justice agenda including the impact of current welfare reforms.

