

Governance Conference

25 March 2022

Learn. Connect. Grow.



CHC Governance Conference 2022



This year's Governance Conference is built around the seven principles of the Code of Governance. After a time of change and upheaval, we want to focus on supporting housing associations to deliver the core principles of good governance. We want to celebrate our differences and what brings us together as a sector.

We will take the seven principles and reflect on what they mean to individual organisations and to the sector as a whole. These principles are:

Purpose
Leadership
Integrity
Decision-making, risk and control
Board effectiveness
Equality, diversity and inclusion
Openness and accountability

We will discuss the actions we need to take in 2022 to build on our strengths and take advantage of new and emerging opportunities.

Laura Courtney
Head of Policy & External Affairs
Community Housing Cymru

#CHCgov22



This conference has been kindly sponsored by [SamKat](#)

Key:

Main Session

Break & Networking


Workshop

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Friday 25th March

9.00am	Registration, networking and exhibition viewing	
9.15am	<p>Board Member Cafe - Our vision for Wales, our vision for social housing Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change in conversation with Michelle Reid, Chief Executive, Merthyr Valleys Homes and Conference Chair</p> <p>@JulieJamesMS @MichReid2014</p> <p>The first principle of the CHC Code of Governance focuses on organisational purpose. This session is designed to provide inspiration for housing associations seeking to maintain a firm focus on core purpose in difficult times and to set out a vision for the sector as more than the sum of its parts.</p> <p>The Minister for Climate Change will share her vision for Wales, for tackling climate change and for social housing. She will provide her perspective on the many urgent challenges we face, and the importance of working with our partners to find creative and effective solutions that move us closer to meeting the ambitions we share for our tenants, our communities and for Wales.</p> <p>As a Minister with a full and complex portfolio, she will go on to reflect on her own approach to maintaining her focus on core purpose, and on any advice that she would give to housing association sector leaders.</p> <div>  <p>The Board Member Cafe is kindly sponsored by Hugh James</p> </div>	
9.45am	A chance for a coffee and a chat	

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10.00am	Welcome and Scene Setting Michelle Reid, Chief Executive, Merthyr Valleys Homes and Conference Chair @MichReid2014
10.05am	Getting Tingly about Governance Karl George MBE, Partner & Head of Governance, RSM @KarlGeorgeMBE <p>Karl George is a thought leader and internationally established consultant in governance. He is Partner and Head of Governance at RSM and creator of the <i>Effective Board Member</i> programmes. He works with boards and senior executives in the private, public and voluntary sectors and has over twenty years combined experience in accountancy, business and strategic development.</p> <p>This session is designed to inspire us through reinvigorating our appreciation of the power of good boards, executive teams and governance staff to lead organisations and provide them with a clear sighted vision of their purpose. Karl will provide insights you might have about how boards can lift their sights above the here and now in order to lead their organisations into the future. He will also reflect on the role of a Code of Governance in building good working relationships within housing association boards, and on helping them to steer their organisation through troubled times.</p>
10.30am	Short break
10.35am	Panel Session: Horizon scanning perspectives for leaders in Wales <p>Our second core governance principle is all about leadership. This panel session will provide us with a range of perspectives on the significant issues that sector leaders should keep in their sights, including lender and tenant relationships, the challenge of decarbonisation at scale and the backdrop of the public health and inequality challenges that face us in Wales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piers Williamson, Chief Executive, The Housing Finance Corporation • Gill Kernick, Strategic Consultant and author of 'Catastrophe and Systemic Change' @gillkernick • Kelechi Nnoaham, Executive Director of Public Health & Lead for R&D and Innovation, Cwm Taf University Health Board @KelechiNnoaham • Simon Markall, Deputy Director of External Affairs, Energy UK @Simonmarkall

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11.20am	A chance for a coffee and a chat
11.30am	<p>Workshop Sessions</p> <p>These sessions will focus on the principles of integrity, decision making, risk and control, and board effectiveness. They will provide insights into what happens when things don't go as planned or the worst happens, input on effective working in a virtual environment and strategic approaches to scrutiny and challenge.</p>
	<p>The Board Challenge</p> <p>Nigel Ireland, Barcud Shared Services Limited @BarcudSS</p> <p>The new Regulatory Framework and CHC Code of Governance enhance the importance of the Board's role in effectively scrutinising and challenging information / data and this session will focus on providing practical tools and techniques on how Boards can most effectively discharge their duties whilst remaining appropriately strategic and not straying into operational territory. The session will cover the scrutiny of key areas including performance, data and risks and consider how good practices can help enhance assurance provision and decision making.</p>
	<p>Board assurance: Quality and Standards</p> <p>Kieran Colgan & Adam Borrie, Ark Consultancy @ARKConsultLtd and Sara Woodall, Connexus @WoodallSara</p> <p>Kieran, Sara and Adam will talk about the "standards" boards are currently grappling with. They will cover issues around regulatory and housing quality, decarbonisation, tenant engagement and culture.</p> <p>Adam Borrie is a Senior Consultant with ARK. Adam has significant experience of managing both asset management services and working in the renewable energy sector. As former Chair of Homes for Islington he also has an intimate understanding of the role of a Board Member.</p> <p>Sara Woodall has over 30 years' experience in the housing sector and has held Executive Director and Chief Executive roles. Sara has managed a range of challenging front-line services and has particular expertise in customer engagement, complaints and customer experience and contact centre management. Sara has recently been appointed as the new Director of Operations with Connexus with over 10,500 homes across Shropshire and Herefordshire.</p>

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	Kieran Colgan began his career as an Environmental Health Officer going on to manage private sector housing and asset management services. Kieran was formerly Lead Housing Inspector at the Audit Commission and recently led ARK's independent investigation of Croydon Council following the high-profile ITV news coverage.	
	The Virtual Board Jenny Brown, Altair @AltairLtd In 2020, organisations had to swiftly adapt to a new way of working. Boards had to balance the unfamiliarity of going virtual with the pressures of protecting their organisations. In this session we will hear from Jenny Brown, Director at Altair on how to keep the Board working as a strategic leadership team in a virtual world and making sure that everyone has a voice and is engaged.	
	Pathway to Board Hayley Selway, Chief Executive, Cardiff Community Housing Association @CCHACorporate The Pathway to Board project is a continuous professional development opportunity designed to better equip individuals from minority ethnic communities who want to contribute to the leadership of an organisation, particularly the housing sector. The aim of the project is to provide both practical and theoretical perspective through training in the classroom and observation of board meetings. It will provide individuals with the opportunity to influence and change how organisations make decisions that affect our Welsh communities and will hopefully be part of a movement to change the face of leadership across Wales.	
12.30pm	Lunch and networking	
1.30pm	Panel Session: Anti-racism and racial inclusion as a Board priority In line with our core governance principles, housing association boards across Wales are taking action to proactively promote racial equality, diversity and inclusion. However, given the critical importance of housing associations as providers of homes, employers and anchor institutions in their communities, how can we be sure we are doing enough - and how can we ensure that we are bringing the lived experiences of our staff, tenants and communities effectively into our strategic decision making? What should we do to make sure this is given its due status as a vital business priority?	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Session Chair: Gemma Watkins, Director of Housing & Communities, Aelwyd Housing @GemmaWatkins2• Michael Abiodun Olatokun, Ambassador, Young Trustees Movement @ab1odun• Srabani Sen, CEO and Founder, Full Colour @Srabani_Sen• Joseph Elliott, Senior Analyst, Joseph Rowntree Foundation @J_Elliott94
2.30pm	A chance for a coffee and a chat
2.45pm	<p>Main Session - Why openness and accountability matters Annie Machon, Writer, Director, ex-MI5 @AnnieMachon</p> <p>In this final session today Annie Machon will remind us why openness and accountability is critical for us as organisations and a sector to build confidence and trust.</p> <p>As a former MI5 intelligence officer and famed whistleblower, Annie has developed a rare perspective both on the inner workings of governments, intelligence agencies and the media, as well as the wider implications for the need for increased openness and accountability in both public and private sectors.</p>
3.15pm	Conference Reflections and Close: Michelle Reid, Conference Chair

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