ISSUE 2014

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE HOUSING DIVERSITY NETWORK

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North West Equality & Diversity Network for Housing Practitioners

Yorkshire and East Midlands Diversity Discussion Forum

North East Equality & **Diversity Network**

South & South West Equality & Diversity <u>Forum</u>

Midlands Equalities Forum



Messages from Two Chief Executives!

Best Not for Profit Companies 2014

It was striking to see just how many HDN member organisations (20) featured in the 100 Best Not for Profit Companies to Work for in 2014 as featured in the Sunday Times and I am delighted that Julie Fadden, Chief Executive of this year's top rated company, SLH Group, accepted our invitation to share with other HDN member organisations just how equality and diversity now feature in SLH's DNA!

Julie has shared her thoughts below and we have invited her and the other HDN member Chief Executives of the other Best 100 Companies to share their experiences and learning not only with each other but also with organisations who want to become part of the 2015 Sunday Times survey and want to learn more. We are also offering to discuss with individual organisations how we can support them as they prepare for their future journeys along the road to excellence be it through for example our staff, customer or board mentoring programmes, our Diversity Network Accreditation or various training/ consultancy support.

If you would like to support us in this please email me directly at Clifton@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk

Community Connections: Peer Support Pilot – An Opportunity to Get Involved

HDN is pleased to work in partnership with Breakthrough UK, an organisation of disabled people that aims to promote the independence and integration of disabled people into society.



We want to develop an innovative peer support pilot that we believe will have multiple benefits for disabled tenants and reduce the increasing social isolation that people are experiencing.

Through the use of Peer Support, the pilot will aim to:

Reduce isolation (potential or real) of disabled people living in social housing communities.

- Ensure disabled tenants have the opportunity to be active and fulfilled contributors to their community.
- Improve the health and well being of disabled tenants.
- Develop community safeguarding.

Peer support is an established and successful mechanism to reduce isolation and developing confidence. A peer supporter is a person who shares their own experience, and information, to encourage and support others, based on shared respect and mutuality. For disabled people's organisations, peer support has a very specific meaning because it is the second listed action point or 'need' of Independent Living. As the first action point of independent living is information – the starting point for independence.

We would like to join together with partners from Social Housing providers to develop a 2 year pilot 'Community Connections' pilot which will seek to demonstrate that with appropriate peer support disabled residents will achieve the following **outcomes** :-

Increased confidence, self esteem, communication skills, resourcefulness and resilience

- Increased social interaction and social networks
- Increased engagement in community activities
- Increased positive behaviours and healthy lifestyle choices
- Improved physical and mental health and well being
- Increased independence
- Increased empowerment and awareness by participants of their rights and entitlements to access mainstream and universal services
- Increased ability of participants to self-advocate
- Sustainable and self-perpetuating Peer Support networks

We are interested in talking to organisations who may want to be involved in this pilot. Initial thoughts are that it would be in the North West England region but please get in touch with Andrew Petrie (<u>Andrew@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk</u>) even if you are based elsewhere and are interested or have experience to share.

Best wishes

Cisto

Clifton Robinson, Chief Executive HDN

For further information on any of the above, please email me at <u>Clifton@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk</u> To follow the view of the HDN Chair, please visit the Chair's Blog on <u>www.housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk</u>



Message from Julie Fadden

Since our recent success with Best Companies and the Sunday Times Top 100 list, I have been approached by many organisations keen to find out the magic ingredient that has helped us to transform over the past few years into the best not for profit company to work for in the UK.

SLH has not always been a success. Nine years ago it was a failing organisation that had its eye off the ball and was deluded about its approach to customer service. It was a company that was losing money because it was spending it on the wrong things, and lacked effective leadership. There was a blame culture that allowed bullying and this had to change.

We entered the Best Companies survey to get an independent assessment of how our staff felt. We were working closely with the then Audit Commission and Housing Corporation to put the business right but we needed to find out the truth about how the staff felt, as you will only ever get the best out of your people if you treat them well, show respect and understand their needs.

Understanding this built the foundations for the development of our approach to equality & diversity. For us it was never about a box ticking exercise or considering it as a 'cross cutting theme' for us equality & diversity was, and still is about treating people in the right way, and this is integral to the way we work.

In 2010 when we developed our first single Equality Scheme, we worked with HQN to review how we could align our scheme with what we were about as an organisation, in terms of leadership, culture and strategic direction. Ensuring they complement each other is vital to the delivery of equality as what's the point in having an approach that does not sync with the way the organisation is run or the direction it is going in.

This review helped us to produce 'Everyone Counts'. Under this umbrella we have a strategy used to set the direction of our approach to equality & diversity. Supporting its delivery is the Everyone Counts colleague forum where colleagues act as champions across the protected characteristics.

So what has that done for us? It has helped give us a clear strategic approach for equality & diversity whilst embedding core principles amongst colleagues. Having colleagues champion each area, often from personal experience, has really raised awareness of issues that some groups (both colleagues & customers) face, and made outcomes real for people. But for us, the biggest difference is the reduction in the fear and mystery that equality & diversity issues can sometimes cause. We're open about discussing fairness and equality as a natural process and not because we have to do it. We simply adopt a family approach and treat everyone with the tolerance and support that one would expect in their own family.

Are we perfect? No we're not, we still have a lot of work to do in continuing to champion equality and celebrate diversity, not just within the work place but also in our communities. Sometimes government policy or media coverage can work against our aim in doing this, but for us it's something we are passionate about and something we will continue to promote, whatever the pressures on us to do otherwise.

Julie Fadden Chief Executive SLH Group

Quick Links

E & D NEWS

Benefit sanctions will hit homeless hardest, says charity

Access to legal aid widened this month

Social landlord's subsidiary care workers to protest over pay

<u>'Welfare cheats'</u> could lose homes <u>under new</u> government plans

600 Afghan nationals now eligible for UK housing

Ministers call for benefit exemptions for disabled tenants

Social landlords welcome residency test for allocations

Overcrowding four times more likely in social homes

Equality & Diversity News

A new scheme forcing jobseekers to take part in six-month unpaid work placements or visit the jobcentre daily has been launched. Inside Housing, 28th April 2014

Benefit sanctions will hit homeless hardest, says charity

Inside Housing, 1st April 2014 Homeless people will be hit disproportionately hard by benefit cuts in Scotland, a charity has warned. In written evidence to the Scottish Parliament's welfare reform committee, due to be presented today, Homeless Action Scotland warned benefit sanctions would 'chip away' at homelessness support. Robert Aldridge, chief executive of Homeless Action Scotland, said: 'The duties on local authorities to assist homeless people will continue regardless of the impact of welfare reform, and there will undoubtedly be pressures on local authorities in Scotland to deal with cases of rent arrears that have arisen as a result of a person's benefit being reduced. The charity referred to the situation in England, where research by Homeless Link has shown that sanctions are already disproportionately affecting homeless people. http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/ care/benefit-sanctions-will-hit-homelesshardest-says-charity/7002934.article

Access to legal aid widened this month

Inside Housing, 2nd April 2014 Access to legal aid funding in family law cases involving domestic violence and child abuse has been made easier from 22 April due to changes to the definition of 'acceptable evidence'. Paula Hardy, chief executive of Welsh Women's Aid, called access to legal help 'a lifeline for women when their home and financial security has been turned upside down by domestic abuse' and welcomed the widening of



admissible evidence. New examples of acceptable evidence include referral by a health professional to a specialist support service, evidence of a related party on police bail for a domestic violence offence and refusal of entry to a refuge. It is hoped that the widening of evidence will reduce incidents of domestic violence victims staying in an abusive home environment due to a lack of legal help.<u>http://</u> www.insidehousing.co.uk/legal/access-to-legalaid-widened-this-month/7002959.article

Social landlord's subsidiary care workers to protest over pay

Inside Housing, 4th April 2014 Care and support workers employed by a Newlon Housing Trust subsidiary will demonstrate outside its London head office to demand a better pay deal. Outward employs more than 400 workers to provide care and support to people with severe learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions. According to the trade union Unison, most of these workers earn below the London living wage, which is currently £8.80 an hour. It says Outward is proposing to cut pay, extend the working week and implement a restructure, which staff say will make services less viable. Nazan Sen, Unison housing associations branch caseworker, said: 'The London living wage is not an extravagance, it is simply the minimum necessary for a dignified life and the increasing numbers of employers who pay it recognise the benefits it offers in improving staff morale and retention.'http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/care/ social-landlords-subsidiary-care-workers-toprotest-over-pay/7003133.article

'Welfare cheats' could lose homes under new government plans

Inside Housing, 7th April 2014 Homeowners could be forced to sell up if they are convicted of benefit fraud, in the latest shake-up of welfare rules due to be announced. Iain Duncan Smith, work and pensions Average housing benefit claim processed a week late

<u>Asylum</u> <u>contractors</u> <u>providing</u> '<u>unacceptably</u> <u>poor'</u> <u>accommodation</u>

<u>Care provider</u> <u>considering CCTV</u> <u>in all homes</u>

<u>'Work for dole'</u> scheme launched secretary, is set to use a major speech to outline his latest reforms which will include more stringent measures for jobseekers. Welfare minister Mike Penning will also set out plans to make 'welfare cheats' sell their homes to pay higher fines to reimburse taxpayers for the money they have wrongly claimed, the Daily Mail has reported. Speaking to the Business for Britain campaign group Mr Duncan Smith will say welfare reform has created 'a stable economy matched by a strong society where people are ready and capable of work'. http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/regulation/ welfare-cheats-could-lose-homes-under-newgovernment-plans/7003143.article

600 Afghan nationals now eligible for UK housing

Inside Housing, 8th April 2014 Around 600 Afghan nationals are to be resettled in the UK after a tweak to housing and homelessness legislation. The change to the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) Regulations 2006, which came into force at the end of March, means Afghan nationals granted leave to enter or remain in the UK are now eligible for housing and homelessness accommodation. The move came after ministers decided to offer the opportunity of resettlement to Afghan staff who have helped the UK in working in particularly dangerous and challenging roles in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. An estimated 600 Afghans will be eligible for resettlement, with arrivals phased between 2014 and 2015.

http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/legal/600afghan-nationals-now-eligible-for-ukhousing/7003162.article

Ministers call for benefit exemptions for disabled tenants

Inside Housing, 11th April 2014 Disabled tenants who have made their homes more accessible should be exempt from housing benefit changes, a group of Welsh government ministers have announced. Five Welsh ministers called on welfare reform minister Lord David Freud, to exempt disabled tenants who have adapted their homes to fit their needs. Jeff Cuthbert, minister for communities and tackling poverty, Carl Sargeant, minister for housing and regeneration, Lesley Griffiths, minister for local government and government business, Vaughan Gething, deputy minister for tackling poverty, and Gwenda Thomas, deputy minister for social services, asked Lord Freud to reconsider the government's position. <u>http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/</u> <u>ministers-call-for-benefit-exemptions-fordisabled-tenants/7003238.article</u>

Social landlords welcome residency test for allocations

Inside Housing, 17th April 2014 A requirement for prospective tenants to pass a 'residency test' before being allocated a social home has been largely welcomed by housing associations and councils, the government has said. In its summary of 140 responses to its consultation on allocations policy, it said 'the majority' were in favour of a residency test. However, it said there were 'some concerns' that a residency test could restrict access to social housing for vulnerable groups and make it more difficult to fill hard-to-let stock. Respondents, largely housing associations and local authorities, said exceptions to this should include those fleeing harassment, existing tenants and people with care needs.

http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/regulation/ social-landlords-welcome-residency-test-forallocations/7003321.article

Overcrowding four times more likely in social homes

Inside Housing, 17th April 2014 Proportionally there were almost four times more overcrowded social homes than overcrowded owner-occupied homes in England and Wales, based on information released by the Office for National Statistics. Of the 23.4 million households in England and Wales registered in the 2011 census, 1.1 million homes were overcrowded. Overcrowding was most common in socially rented homes at 8.7 per cent, 360,000 homes, of the overall social households registered. This was closely followed by overcrowding in privately rented homes at 8.6 per cent, 362,000 homes. Both of these were around four times more than the 2.3 per cent of overcrowded owner-occupied homes, 341,000 homes. http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/tenancies/

overcrowding-four-times-more-likely-in-social -homes/7003317.article

Average housing benefit claim processed a week late

Inside Housing, 23rd April 2014 Local authorities took longer than three weeks to process housing benefit claims on average – a week longer than their target time. Councils should process new claims within 14 days, but figures issued by the Department for Work and Pensions showed the average claim takes 22 days. This represents marginally better performance than last year, when the average time was 23 days. A report commissioned by the government identified benefit delays as a major reason for people using food banks when it was published in February. http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/averagehousing-benefit-claim-processed-a-weeklate/7003348.article

Asylum contractors providing 'unacceptably poor' accommodation

Inside Housing, 24th April 2014 Asylum seekers are forced to endure 'unacceptably poor' accommodation by the private contractors responsible for housing them, a group of MPs has said. In a damning report, the public accounts committee has attacked the government's handling of the transition to six regional contracts to provide asylum accommodation. In March 2012, the Home Office signed six new contracts called COMPASS with three providers - G4S, Serco and Clearel – aiming to save around £140 million on expenditure on asylum accommodation over seven years. The committee said the homes provided under the contracts are 'still not up to standard'. 'Over a year into the contract, contractors have remained slow in providing decent accommodation for a very vulnerable group of people,' it said.

http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/asylumcontractors-providing-unacceptably-pooraccommodation/7003354.article

Care provider considering CCTV in all homes

Inside Housing, 28th April 2014

A residential care provider is considering whether to install visible CCTV cameras in all its care and nursing homes, in a bid to tackle the abuse of elderly residents. HC-One, the UK's third largest residential care provider, is mulling the move after secret filming exposed the neglect of an elderly resident two years ago. Staff were filmed neglecting an elderly resident in Oban House, in Croydon, south London. The footage, from December 2012, is due to be broadcast as part of a BBC Panorama documentary looking at elderly care standards. A spokesperson for HC-One said the poor care filmed in December 2012 'was not, and is not, indicative of the standards we demand and was contrary to all of the processes and training we have put in place'. http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/care/careprovider-considering-cctv-in-all-

homes/7003418.article

'Work for dole' scheme launched

Inside Housing, 28th April 2014 A new scheme forcing jobseekers to take part in six-month unpaid work placements or visit the jobcentre daily has been launched. The programme, designed to help 200,000 long-term unemployed, will involve benefit claimants completing 30 hours per week of 'community work placements', visiting the jobcentre every day or participating in 'intensive treatment' to deal with long-term issues preventing them from engaging in employment. Claimants will be sanctioned and lose four weeks' worth of benefits if they do not comply with the rules. Prime Minister David Cameron said: 'This scheme will provide more help than ever before, getting people into work and on the road to a more secure future.' A campaign group inviting organisations not to sign up to the workfare schemes has also been launched, involving charities such as Adur Voluntary Action, Anti-Slavery International and Asylum Education. http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/care/workfor-dole-scheme-launchedtoday/7003421.article

Quick Links

PUBLICATIONS

Two in three housing associations in Britain now pay the living wage. Inside Housing, April 2014

Publications

Report of the Director of Public Health -Homelessness

Nottingham County Council, April 2014 More needs to be done to address the heath needs of homeless people across Nottinghamshire, a report has recommended. The report was commissioned by the Nottinghamshire County Public Health Directorate. It found that each of the 349 respondents reported having three or more separate health needs, including 74 per cent reporting mental health problems, with just 31 per cent having a diagnosis, 18 per cent reporting having an alcohol problem, or recovering from one and 26 per cent had attended A&E in the past six months. Grant Everitt, a member of the steering group, said: 'The lack of appropriate primary care interventions creates the risk of exacerbation and potential crisis. The health community is urged to work closely with homelessness charities and other key partners to prevent this from happening.' Link to report

The generation strain: Collective solutions to care in an ageing society *IPPR*, *April 2014*

Two million older people in need of care will not have an adult child to provide it by 2030, a think tank has warned. The number of older people in need of care is expected to outstrip the number of family members able to provide informal care for the first time in 2017, the report said. The Institute for Public Policy Research called for the UK government to follow examples from countries such as Germany and Japan. By 2030, 230,000 people who need more than 20 hours of care a week will not have a relative to provide it. The report said the number of people aged 65 and over without children to care for them will almost double before the end of the next decade and that by 2030, there will be more than 2 million people in England without a child to care for them if needed. The report showed that the average annual cost for an older person who pays for a typical package of care has increased to £7,900 a year, an average £25,000 for home care and an average £36,000 for a nursing home. http://www.ippr.org/assets/media/ publications/pdf/generationstrain_Apr2014.pdf

Poverty in Suburbia

The Smith Institute, April 2014 More than 55 per cent of poverty-stricken people living in England and Wales live in the suburbs, according to a think tank report, *Poverty in suburbia. The report* found there are approximately 7 million people living in poverty in suburban areas - 57 per cent of the total number of people living in poverty in the two countries – and that the number of people living in suburban neighbourhoods in above-average poverty levels has risen by 33 per cent from 2001 to 2011. The report said in its conclusion: 'Around 6.8 million people in suburban areas were in poverty in 2011. With changes to the housing market, falling real wages and welfare reforms, this figure could now be over 7 million.' http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/ journals/2014/04/01/g/x/a/Poverty-in-Suburbia-compressed.pdf

Food Aid: Living with Food Insecurity

Elizabeth Dowler and Hannah Lambie-Mumford, April 2014

A new study into the link between the demand for food banks and welfare reform has found that the rise in demand for charity food is a clear signal "of the inadequacy of both social security provision and the processes by which it is delivered". The report warns that as social security safety nets become weaker, there is a danger that charity food could become an integral part of the state welfare provision, or even a replacement for formerly state-funded emergency welfare schemes. Lambie-Mumford's study was based on 25 in-depth

<u>Report of the Di-</u> rector of Public <u>Health - Homeless-</u> <u>ness</u>

<u>The generation</u> <u>strain: Collective</u> <u>solutions to care in</u> <u>an ageing society</u>

<u>Poverty in Subur-</u> <u>bia</u>

Food Aid: Living with Food Insecurity

Housing Benefit Size Criteria: Impacts for Social Sector Tenants and Options for Reform

The Impact of Welfare Reform on Social Landlords and Tenants

Universal credit confusion stopping landlords renting to welfare recipients Priced out: ending the financial penalty of disability by 2020

<u>Two in three asso-</u> <u>ciations pay living</u> <u>wage</u>

<u>Multiple Cuts for</u> <u>the Poorest Fami-</u> <u>lies</u> interviews with a range of food bank staff and volunteers in 2012 and 2013 and found many food banks were adapting to demand by scaling up food collection and storage provision "to accommodate the future trajectory of need". The rise of food banks has become <u>politically charged</u> as ministers attempt to deflect criticism that austerity policies, including welfare cuts, have had the effect of compelling more people on low incomes to rely on food aid.

http://www.communitiesandculture.org/ files/2013/01/Living-with-Food-Insecurity-CCN -Report.pdf

Housing Benefit Size Criteria: Impacts for Social Sector Tenants and Options for Reform

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, April 2014 The Housing Benefit size criteria – also called the 'spare room subsidy' or 'bedroom tax' was introduced in April 2013. This study looks at how households have been affected by the Housing Benefit size criteria and how they have responded to the challenges it presents. It also considers how successful the policy has been in its aims of freeing up homes and saving the government money. The report which has been produced suggests reforms, including requiring landlords to offer alternative accommodation before applying the size criteria. Possible reforms include: clearer provision for households with disabled members, redefined space standards, and requiring landlords to offer alternative accommodation before applying the size criteria.<u>http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/</u> housing-benefit-reform-summary.pdf

The Impact of Welfare Reform on Social Landlords and Tenants

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, April 2014 This research explores how significant cuts to welfare spending are affecting social housing tenants and landlords. It focuses on changes to a number of benefits including the Housing Benefit size criteria - also known as the 'under -occupancy charge' and 'bedroom tax' – Council Tax Benefit, disability benefits, Universal Credit and more. The study highlights the financial and social impact of the reforms on tenants. It shows the difficult decisions they are faced with, such as cutting back on food, heat and electricity, falling into debt and selling belongings to survive. The study also looks at the changing relationship between social landlords and tenants, and the types of services housing associations are feeling pressured to provide. These include more community support and less investment in new housing.

http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/welfarereform-landlords-tenants-summary.pdf

Universal credit confusion stopping landlords renting to welfare recipients

British Property Federation, April 2014 Nearly 40 per cent of private landlords who own more than 10 properties are letting to fewer welfare recipients, a new study from the British Property Federation has revealed. The study found that 39 per cent of these landlords were confused about how the universal credit policy will impact rent arrears and intended to rent to fewer welfare tenants. The BPF said it was the responsibility of landlord groups, NGOs and the government to educate landlords about welfare reform. The federation also recommended that the government allow tenants to choose direct payment to avoid falling into arrears. http://www.bpf.org.uk/ en/newsroom/press release/PR140409 -_Universal_Credit_confusion_risks_driving_la rge landlords away from housing benefit t enants.php

Priced out: ending the financial penalty of disability by 2020

Scope, April 2014

The next government should redesign the personal independence payment to reflect the costs disabled people encounter related to their disability, a report has announced. The report by Scope said that on average a disabled person spends £550 a month on costs related to their disability. It said, as a result of these extra costs, they are twice as likely to have unsecured debt totalling more than half their household income, are three times more likely to use door step loans and have, on average, £108,000 fewer savings

and assets than non-disabled people. This report is the second in a series that looks in depth at the challenges within disabled people's living standards. It argues that the extra costs disabled people face is the first important challenge and recommends ways the Government can tackle the problem. http://www.scope.org.uk/Scope/media/ Documents/Publication%20Directory/Extra-Costs-Report.pdf?ext=.pdf

Two in three associations pay living wage

Inside Housing, April 2014

Two in three housing associations in Britain now pay the living wage, research by Inside Housing has revealed. A survey of Britain's largest landlords found 40 out of 59 to respond pay the living wage to all their staff, excluding apprentices, while 19 do not. The living wage, independently calculated annually by Loughborough University to be the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet basic needs, is currently £8.80 in London and £7.65 elsewhere. The news was welcomed by the Living Wage Foundation, which accredits employers paying the living wage. A spokesperson said: 'Housing associations have an important role to play in communities across the UK by changing markets through the way they do business.' http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/finance/twoin-three-associations-pay-livingwage/7003300.article

Multiple Cuts for the Poorest Families

Oxfam and New Policy Institute, April 2014 The bedroom tax and other welfare cuts have caused 1.75 million of Britain's lowest income families to become poorer, according to a report. Research published by Oxfam and the New Policy Institute concluded that 200,000 families were £864 worse off a year, or £18 per week, following changes to the welfare system. The report identifies how many of the poorest families have seen their benefits cut by at least one of the changes to the benefit system in recent years, and how much worse off they are. The analysis found that around 1.75 million families had seen an absolute reduction in their income in the past three years after being subject to at least one welfare payment change, such as the bedroom tax or the reduction in council tax exemptions.

http://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/ oxfam/bitstream/10546/315868/8/rr-multiple -cuts-poorest-families-benefits-uk-220414en.pdf



Motivating, Inspiring... MENTORING...

Housing Diversity Network Mentoring Programme 2014-15 commences in September 2014

"The course was very educational and inspired me to think more deeply about my long term

aspirations in the housing sector. My Mentor was excellent"

"Probably one of the best experiences I have had in my career"

For more information please visit our website to see <u>testimonials</u> from past participants (both mentors and mentees) and organisational representatives.

The deadline for all applications is

Monday 30th June 2014

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Programme or require more information before completing an application form, please contact us on 01484 652 606 or email mentoring@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk



HDN Website - Jobs Page

Check out our website for the latest jobs with L&Q Housing Trust, Wulvern Housing, Orbit Housing Group, Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing, Muir Housing Group and many more <u>http://www.housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk/jobs/</u>

Practitioner Group Updates

If you or any of your colleagues are interested in joining any of the groups, please contact <u>carla@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk</u>. As a practitioner you are welcome to attend any of the meetings and be added to all 5 email groups.

Dates for the next meetings are:

North West Equality & Diversity Network for Housing Practitioners

The next meeting will be held on the 4th June 2014, at Your Housing Group, Manchester

Yorkshire and East Midlands Diversity Discussion Forum

The next meeting will be held on the 9th July 2014, at Action Housing & Support, Rotherham

North East Equality & Diversity Network for Housing Practitioners

The next meeting will be held on the 17th June 2014, at South Tyneside Homes, Tyne and Wear

South & South West Equality & Diversity Forum

The next Forum meeting will be held on the 3rd June 2014 at Orbit Group, Redhill.

Midlands Equalities Forum

The next meeting will be held on the 21st July 2014, at Severnside Housing.

Upcoming Events

- HDN Board Mentoring Launch Event Yorkshire and Humberside 5th June 2014, South Yorkshire Housing Association, Sheffield
- HDN Board Mentoring Launch Event North West
 12th June 2014, Regenda Group, Liverpool
- <u>HDN Board Mentoring Launch Event Home Counties</u> 16th July 2014, Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust, Aylesbury

For further information on the above events please contact <u>carla@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk</u> .



The Housing Diversity Network's Equality & Diversity Briefings are produced in association with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). For further information on CLES please visit their website at <u>www.cles.org.uk</u>, contact Matthew Jackson on 0161 233 1928 or email <u>MatthewJackson@cles.org.uk</u>