

# Working Communities: The Future of Housing and Employment

12 September | London

A partnership conference between ERSA and GUAC



#ersaguac18

2018

Headline sponsor



## Conference programme - sponsored by Sovereign Housing Association

09.00 – 10.00 Registration, refreshments and exhibition viewing  
10.00 – 10.15 Welcome and chairs introduction to the day  
**Lynsey Sweeney**, Managing Director, Give us a Chance



### 10.15 – 11.35 Plenary 1: Devolution Now

With increasing energy and activity taking place at the devolved level, this session will focus on building communities that work from the regional perspective. The IPPR's recent report will be outlined on the role of housing associations in supporting employment, followed by contributions from the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Greater London Authority leads on their views and employability workstreams.

- **Joe Dromey**, Senior Research Fellow - Employment and Skills, IPPR
- **Phil de Montmorency**, Principal Policy Officer, Skills & Employment Team, GLA
- **Rachel Egan**, Programme Lead for Skills, Employment & Productivity, West Midlands Combined Authority

### 11.35 – 12.30 Refreshments and networking

#### 12.00 – 12.40 Breakout one: Enterprise

(chair) Roger Horne, ERSA

(room) Salisbury

Self-employment has risen exponentially in recent years and now accounts for 14.5% of the total UK workforce, with half the 1.2 million jobs that have been created since 2010 being self-employed. Self employment can provide an important route out of unemployment for some jobseekers, including individuals who have specific barriers to entering the labour market.

- **Sacha Anthony**, Director, ASE Assist
- **Andy Pringle**, Business Development Manager, Enterprise First

#### 12.00 - 12.40 Breakout two: Housing initiatives: Apprenticeships and Local Partnerships

(chair) Marc Malloy, One Housing

(room) Main Hall

Two major policy priorities are for the current Government to reach 3 million apprenticeships starts by 2020 and to create more inclusive economies through local partnerships. The Apprenticeship Levy creates an opportunity for providers and employers, whilst local partnership working is key to identifying, designing and meeting current and future skills needs. Housing Associations are making good headway in both of these areas and can share their good practice with others across the housing and employment sectors.

- **Nick Parker**, Executive Manager, Vestia Community Trust (part of The Community Housing Group)
- **Mark Maddison**, Love London Working Programme Manager (Strategic), Clarion Futures

#### 12.00 – 12.40 Breakout three: Young People

(chair) Alieu Fofanah, Foyer

(room) Passmore Edwards

With youth unemployment at its lowest rate since 1992, the Government's record figures mask underlying problems for specific groups, in particular young people who are disadvantaged in the labour market. In addition, some young people are 'hidden' from these statistics and sit outside the mainstream system of support. This is an area where concerted effort is needed across the housing and employment sectors to highlight the needs of young people and the non-mainstream solutions to meeting them.

- **Matt Dronfield**, Senior Employability Manager, London Youth
- **Chris Adams**, Employment Skills & Enterprise Team Manager, Radian

### 12:40 – 13.40 Lunch, exhibition viewing and networking

13.40 – 14.20

## Afternoon breakout sessions with refreshments

13.40 – 14.20

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### Breakout four: Impact and Measurement

(chair) Lynsey Sweeney, Give us a Chance

(room) Salisbury

Measuring impact and understanding the value of your provision is more crucial now than ever before. This session shares insights from the work taking place across the housing and employment sectors to better understand what interventions and partnerships work best to support people into employment and to sustain their tenancies, whilst also proving the value of employment support.

- **Dr Katy Jones**, Research Fellow, Sustainable Housing & Urban Studies Unit, University of Salford
- **Gemma Hope**, Director of Policy, Marketing and Communications, Shaw Trust

13.40 – 14.20

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### Breakout five: In-Work Progression

(chair) Sam Windett, ERSA

(room) Passmore Edwards

Under the current record employment figures, important questions remain as to the type and quality of employment and issues of low wages and career progression. Five million UK adults are in low paid work, one million more than the OECD average, and three in four people in low paid work ten years ago are still low paid today. This is even more significant for groups such as lone parents and people with disabilities, who are less likely to progress. Work in this area is complex – engagement is needed with employers, business sectors and busy working people – and sharing challenges and learnings is key.

- **Jackie Sumner**, Head of Community Investment, Town and Country Housing
- **Hannah Murphy**, Research, Learning and Work Institute

13.40 – 14.20

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### Breakout six: Disability and Health

(chair) Merron Simpson, NHS Alliance

(room) Main Hall

Higher levels of inactivity in the social rented sector are driven in part by higher levels of disability. The latest English Housing Survey shows that in socially rented households, 17.2 per cent of the named tenants or their partner were disabled, compared to 5.9 per cent of owner-occupiers and 4 per cent of private tenants. With the Government's target of supporting 1 million more disabled people into work by 2027, the housing and employment sectors are crucial to this aim.

- **Emma Warren**, Regional Contract Director, MAXIMUS
- **Matthew McLean**, Community Investment Services Manager, Southern Housing

14.20 – 14.45

## Refreshments and Networking

14.45 – 14.50

### Welcome back to the afternoon

**Kirsty McHugh**, Chief Executive, Employment Related Services Association

14.50 – 15.55

## Plenary 2: Into the Future

This session will look to the future of the employment and housing landscape and provide insights on some of the major opportunities and challenges for organisations helping tenants into work and to progress. Attendees will hear about the Government's social housing agenda and initiatives such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, as the successor to the European Social Fund, as well as their potential impact on the support available to help residents achieve sustainable livelihoods and tenancies.

- **Lord Best**, British social housing leader, Vice President of the LGA, Chair, CSJ Housing Commission and crossbench member of the Lords
- **Robert Tinker**, Policy Officer, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- **Victoria Whittle**, Head of Jobs and Training, Clarion Futures

15.50 – 15.55

### Chair's reflections, Connect and close

**Kirsty McHugh**, Chief Executive, Employment Related Services Association

**ERSA Employability Awards 2018 shortlisted, highly commended and winning Housing Associations**