

Board Members

Peter Waugh (Chair)

Peter is a Chartered Engineer with more than 30 years global experience in the minerals and chemicals industries. He is a former Director of Huntsman Pigments and he now has his own consultancy business providing strategic manufacturing and technical expertise to the chemical industry. In addition, he is an industrial tutor in the Engineering School at Durham University, and an honorary steward at Wimbledon.

Anna Urbanowicz (Deputy Chair)

Anna is a Chartered Accountant and has worked all her career in the private sector. Her most recent role was Group Director of Internal Controls for ESH Group. She has been involved in a number of local charities on a voluntary basis as well as a previous role as a community representative on Cleveland, Durham, and Northumberland Court Board.

Margaret Smith

Margaret is now retired but worked in the social housing sector for over 30 years. Her experience covers housing management, maintenance, development and governance. She has worked as a Director of the Chartered Institute of Housing, as a Director of a large national social housing provider and as a freelance consultant. She has significant experience as a Board member and has served as Chair of a housing association.

Paul Craggs

Paul formerly held the position of Regional Commercial Manager for a number of major construction companies operating in the North East and Yorkshire, including latterly for 15 years, Shepherd Construction. Paul has extensive experience in Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Building Schools for the Future (BSF) including project finance and project design and performance monitoring. Paul is now a consultant in the construction industry and also has a property letting company that he has been operating for the last 20 years.

Jason Ridley (Chair of Risk and Audit Committee)

Jason is a Chartered Accountant as well as Chartered Governance Professional as a member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. He is currently Director of Finance and IT with Leeds Federated Housing Association. Jason has over 30 years' experience across a wide range of blue-chip companies, geographies and roles and 13 years of non-executive director experience within the UK Social Housing Sector.

David Lyall

David is the retired Chief Information Officer with the Regulator, Homes England where he was responsible for the provision of internal and external IT solutions and for digital transformation. He has spent his career in paid and voluntary public service, much of it in the housing sector. David has over 20 years' experience in leadership, working with Execs and Non-Execs to transform public services.

Claire Warren

Claire is a housing professional with an early background in housing services, business development and regeneration. She has over 17 years working at Board level, 15 of which have been as Chief Executive of large and small housing organisations. Claire has also held a number of non-executive roles, including Board member and Property Committee member with Joseph Rowntree Trust, Board Director with Re'New and Board member with Chevin Housing Group (now Together Housing).

Graeme Allinson

Graeme is an experienced Corporate Banking Director and was the Head of Manufacturing, Transport and Logistics division at Barclays. Other responsibilities have included Customer Satisfaction and Risk & Governance.

Mark Thompson

Mark is semi-retired running his own HR consultancy. Prior to this Mark was a HR Director in the retail sector, professional services and most recently in Education.

David Walker

David is an experienced regeneration and property development expert who has extensive knowledge of managing and delivering mixed use development projects. David has spent the past 35 years in the construction sector in the North East working as a consultant, client and developer/contractor so has a good all round knowledge on the delivery of projects. He is a former Chief Executive of the urban regeneration company in Sunderland and has spent much of the last 10 years working in the affordable housing sector.

Simon Wake

Simon is the recently retired head of commercial property at Tees Valley law firm the Endeavour Partnership LLP. He has over 30 years' experience in the commercial property sector, acting for a wide variety of clients across many areas of business, but particularly in relation to the development sector.

Board Trainees

Marilyn Amadi

Marilyn is currently on maternity leave from her role as Transformation Support Officer at Homes England. With over 14 years' experience in Housing she is committed to working with organisations that value strong social purpose. In previous roles, Marilyn has been integral to the implementation of projects specifically focused on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Marilyn continues to be passionate about changing the perception of black women in the North East.

Juliana Bell

Juliana originates from Brazil and has lived in the UK for 20 years, predominantly in London, having recently moved to North Yorkshire. Juliana currently manages the Migration Foundation, a grant-making charitable fund of Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) and has over 15 years' experience in the not-for-profit sector in both operational and charity trustee roles. She spent five years as a trustee of LAWRS, who work with migrant women and girls affected by violence, abuse, poverty and trauma

Manisha Sharma

Manisha works for Thirteen Group as a Bespoke Lettings Coordinator. As a British Indian woman, Manisha would like to become a role model for other ethnic minority colleagues and under-represented communities. Manisha is also a mentor for the Girls Network, a scheme that offers girls mentorship from inspirational and motivated women across a range of professions and a wide range of backgrounds.

Charlotte Leighton

Charlotte is local to the area. She is educated to master's level in International Business and Marketing Management, which were pivotal to running her own bridal boutique (Christian Alexander) in Norton, Stockton. Upon selling her business, she began looking at ways to dedicate more time to her passions for social inclusion and

raising self-efficacy within our communities. Charlotte is about to start her research journey as a PhD Psychology student, focussing on improving user experience and the wellbeing of those in social housing.