

Introducing the North Wales WISH board

Chair- *Nikki Waud- Seddon Construction*

For the past 20 years Nikki, a marketing and business development specialist, has worked extensively with a diverse range of public and private sector clients across England and Wales. Working in the social housing sector is her most rewarding role to date and she is a firm believer that decent housing shouldn't just be a wish but a human right.

Deputy Chair- *Debbie King- Building Careers UK*

Debbie is a social housing recruitment specialist who has worked with many social housing providers, charities and contractors across North Wales and North West England for the past 15 years. As Director for specialist construction and property recruitment firm Building Careers UK, Debbie has managed recruitment campaigns and processes for a variety of clients.

Treasurer- *Nicolette Cullen- PDW*

Nicolette is a highly experienced and dedicated development professional with a proven track record of successfully delivering complex programmes and projects. Her career spans across diverse strategic growth and delivery roles in commercial, public and third sector organisations.

Events Manager- *Claire Shiland- Cartrefi Conwy*

Claire is Head of Neighbourhood Services at Cartrefi Conwy, where she has worked for the last 7 years. In her current role Claire is responsible for a team of 70 delivering all Tenancy Management functions and Support Services to just under 4000 properties within Cartrefi Conwy's portfolio.

Membership Secretary- *Catherine Simpson – Trowers & Hamlins LLP*

Catherine is a Senior Associate Solicitor specialising in advising housing associations on governance, corporate and regulatory matters, in the differing English and Welsh contexts. Her experience includes advising clients on constitutional and governance issues, rule changes, payment of board members, HCA and Welsh Government regulatory compliance. Catherine has also advised on transfers of engagements, mergers and restructures, setting up non-charitable subsidiaries, charity law, regulation and vires.

Marketing and Communications- *Catherine Bellis – Hough Bellis Communications Ltd*

For the past 18 years, Catherine has worked extensively with local authorities and housing organisations across England and Wales delivering internal and external projects to a wide range of audiences from Council Leaders and Chief Executives to the general public. She is especially proud of her work on the divisive issue of housing transfer, particularly in Wales.

Clare Budden – Flintshire CC

Clare is the Chief Officer for Community and Enterprise at Flintshire County Council. She is responsible for Council Housing, the Councils wholly owned housing company- NEW Homes, Housing new build programmes, Homelessness, Supporting People, Strategic Housing function, Private sector Housing Renewal, Town and Rural regeneration, Economic growth and Business development, Apprenticeship Academy, Revenues and Benefits service and corporate responsibility for Customer Service.

Clare also has significant governance experience across a range of sectors, and is currently a board member of an English Housing Association and chair of its Development committee; Chair of Housing Leadership Cymru; a Housing advisor to the WLGA, Lead Officer for the Mersey Dee (economic) Alliance, Chair of 2025 (Health and Housing partnership), board member for WISH North Wales. Vice Chair of Governors for a primary school.

Helen Armitage - AA Projects

Helen has over eight years' experience during which she has developed a career as a Senior Cost Consultant acting as Employer's Agent on a variety of schemes for many different registered providers.

She has a Masters in Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management from Liverpool John Moores University and is a Chartered Surveyor.

Helena Kirk – North Wales HA

Helena has recently joined North Wales HA as their CEO. Helena is a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing and has worked in the housing sector for over 30 years. Prior to NWAHA Helena worked at Shoreline Housing as their Operations Director and for HouseMark as Director of consultancy for 5 years. Helena has also held the positions of Director of Operations at Herefordshire Housing and Director of Housing at Midland Area Housing Association in Birmingham, now part of Midland Heart. Earlier in her career Helena gained valuable experience working for Riverside Housing Group in the North West for seven years and prior to that worked in Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire.

Elliw Llŷr – Anglesey CC

Elliw Llŷr is the Strategic Manager at Anglesey CC and has worked within Housing for a number of years covering allocations, Housing options team, tenant participation to affordable housing, housing strategy and energy efficiency matters.

Elan Prys Jones- Pennaf Housing Group

Elan has worked in housing development for 4 years, currently as a Assistant Development Officer as part of the Development team at Pennaf Housing Group. Elan is studying towards a degree in BSc Construction Project Management.

Passionate about place making, making a difference in local communities, and developing affordable, efficient, good quality housing.

Shan Williams, MSc (Econ) CIHCM– Anglesey CC

Head of Housing Services for Isle of Anglesey County Council, a stock retained authority. Shan also leads on the tackling poverty programmes within the Authority and is an active Board member of Chartered Institute for Housing Wales.

Passionate about social housing and reducing health inequalities which exist, and also for finding

solutions to increase affordable housing solutions especially where the needs exist in rural areas.
Part-time farmer - great relaxation in her spare time!