

Meet the Board 2026

Mark Goldring CBE, BA (Hons), MSc

Chair of the Board

Mark is a local Dorchester resident and was recently Chief Executive of Asylum Welcome, a refugee charity in Oxford. He now works as an interim CEO and consultant. He is also a former Chief Executive of Oxfam GB and brings a wealth of non-executive and chairing experience as well as a particular interest in housing in Soha's area, local insight and connections, and previous experience managing Mencap's housing provision.



Mark was elected to the Board and appointed Chair in 2024.

Victoria Dingle BSc (Hons)

Vice-Chair of the Board

Chair of Personnel and Remuneration Committee

Victoria is a passionate advocate for and has a wealth of knowledge in: tenants' rights, community services, hidden disabilities, and domestic violence. As a Social Housing Quality resident panellist for the government and Housing Ombudsman, she works with the government and Ministers on hidden disabilities and the rights of social housing tenants. Victoria is part of the Steering Group Member of the Women's Housing Forum. She has presented at many housing conferences and events for Tpas, NHF, WHF, Inside Housing and the CIH.



Victoria joined the Board in 2018 and became its Vice Chair in 2022. She achieved her level 4 Certificate in Housing from the Chartered Institute of Housing in 2024.

Outside of Soha, Victoria is in her last year of a four-year counselling qualification, whilst working as a volunteer Counsellor for both adults and young people.

Naomi Barrand BA (Hons)

Sits on Audit and Risk Committee

Naomi works in the manufacturing industry as an Operations Assistant. She also volunteers and is on the committee for Flexicare; an Oxfordshire children's charity. She became a Soha resident after purchasing her first home through their Shared Ownership scheme. She then took the opportunity to become a Member of Soha and was later elected to the Members' Forum. She joined the Board in September 2021.



Claire Davis FCA, BA (Hons)

Co-opted Board Member

Sits on Audit and Risk Committee

Claire is a Chartered Accountant with over 30 years' experience in the housing sector in UK and Australia including roles as Director of Finance and Corporate Services. Claire has also run her own leadership development business called Stretch Leaders. A Board member of various not for profit housing and development companies since 1990, her current roles include Board Member, Chair of People Nominations & Remuneration Committee and member of the Risk & Audit Committee at Havebury Housing Partnership, and Board Member of Gilbert & Goode, the wholly owned subsidiary of Ocean Housing Group. She joined the Soha Board in November 2025.



Dave Lakin BA (Hons)

Chair of Audit and Risk Committee

Dave is the Director of Development and Sales at Amplius, a Registered Provider formed by the merger of Longhurst Group and Grand Union Housing Group, which owns and manages over 40,000 homes and now delivers a development programme of 1,000 new homes a year. He has worked in the social housing sector for over 30 years, delivering services to residents, developing new homes and having responsibility for sales programmes. He first joined the Board in February 2020.



Emma Luddington RIBA, BA (Hons)

Sits on Personnel and Remuneration Committee

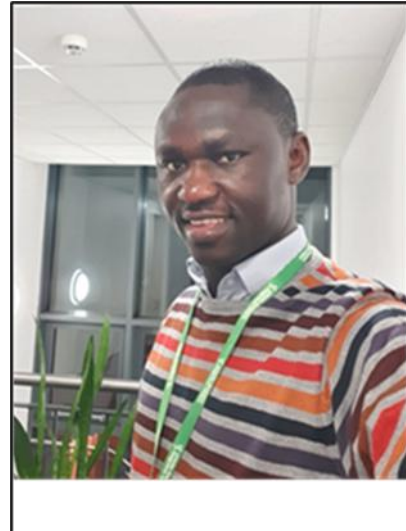
Emma is a Chartered Architect with over 25 years' experience in the housing sector. In her current role she is Director of Living Well at Home, a multi-award-winning start-up that delivers property and housing design advice to the public sector, commercial and community developers and individual households. She has previously served as a Board member of Habinteg Housing Association, Built Environment Expert for the Design Council, Co-Chair of the National Register of Access Consultants and is a regular contributor to the Royal Institute of British Architects CPD and training programme. She joined the Board in 2022.



Peter Nkum Jnr BA Hons), MSC

Sits on Personnel and Remuneration Committee

Peter is a Supply Chain and Procurement Professional with experience of successfully leading teams in a fast-paced environment. He currently works for the University of Oxford maintaining the support and relationships with shoppers and researchers while ensuring value for money and compliance with University purchasing guidelines. He was appointed to the Board in September 2021.



Peter Sloman BA (Hons)

Sits on Personnel and Remuneration Committee

Chair of Soha Response

Peter is retired from full time work as Chief Executive of Reading Borough Council. He had a 40-year career in local government, ranging from front line housing services roles to senior management responsibilities. He qualified as a member of the Institute of Housing whilst working in London and went on to have a career as a local authority chief executive in three councils over 22 years. He also holds a Non-Executive Director role at Reading Buses.

He first joined the Soha Board in 2022 and became a Board member and Chair of Soha Response in October 2024. Soha Response successfully delivers an in-house repairs and void service to Soha residents.



Hayley Smith BSc (Hons), CIHCM

Sits on Personnel and Remuneration Committee

Portfolio holder for Complaints

Hayley has fifteen years of maintenance experience including asbestos management in various housing association roles. She has an honours degree in Construction Management with an emphasis on social housing and completed her dissertation on energy efficiency in existing social housing stock. She joined the Board in September 2018.



Kate Wareing BA (Hons), CIHCM

Executive Board Member

Kate is Chief Executive of Soha Housing, having joined us in July 2018. Since joining, she has overseen the delivery of more than 1000 new homes; the creation of Soha Response to improve the delivery of Soha's repairs service, and has lobbied on both local and national issues to improve housing supply with a particular focus on social rent homes. Kate is also on the Board of Placeshapers, a national network of Housing Associations committed to supported thriving communities and places.



There is one Board member who is standing for re-election

Martyn Thorne Ph.D, DIC, ARSM

Sits on Soha Response Board

After qualifying as a geologist, Martyn worked for metal and industrial mining companies in Britain and Eire. Latterly he was Senior Lecturer in Mining Geology at the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall. Following a call to the Christian ministry Martyn was a Minister in Greenwich, Truro, Gravesend, Rushden and Kettering in Northants. During this time he and his wife lived in church housing and so in retirement count themselves very fortunate to be able to live in a Soha shared ownership flat in the same village as one of their daughters and her family.



Since becoming a Soha Member, Martyn has volunteered as part of the Resident Scrutiny Group, as a Portfolio Holder and was elected to the Members' Forum in 2023. He then joined the Board in September 2023.

As part of a Resident Scrutiny report group, he saw first-hand how bringing the repairs service 'in house' could be of benefit to Soha and improve the service provided to residents. As a result he was pleased to be asked to join the Soha Response Board when it was set up and is delighted to be able to contribute to its further development.

Martyn is seeking re-election to the Board for a further three years.

A little bit more on our new Board members

Peter Finegan, BA(Hons), FCMI, CMgr

Peter is an established Transformation and Operations professional, with 15 years of extensive experience spearheading operations, strategic change, and technological integration within two of the United Kingdom's largest retail organisations. Currently Head of Retail Product, Innovation, and Change at the John Lewis Partnership, Peter is the architect behind the transformation agenda for John Lewis retail, driving the deployment of advanced technologies, including AI, alongside process simplification and operating model design. He recently orchestrated the successful delivery of one of the most substantial transformation initiatives in the history of the John Lewis Partnership. Peter is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and lives near Thame.



Jo Garvey, BSc (Hons)

Jo holds a BSc in Computer Science, and is a Clerk & RFO, providing accounting, governance and administrative support to a local Parish Council. She has served as a Parish Councillor and on the Board of a community business, and has previously worked as a Spam and Malware Analyst, Area Youth Worker and Project Manager, bringing experience in computer security, community engagement and project delivery.



Process of Election to the Board

Extract from Soha's Board Member Recruitment and Selection Policy

4. Implementation

During the process of recruitment and selection, all potential Board members including co-optees should be clear that they are expected to adhere to the Nolan Principles of Public Life: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

Advertisements

- a) Vacancies for resident Board members will be advertised as widely as possible, using a range of communication methods, to all Soha's residents including tenants, shared owners and leaseholders.
- b) Community Board member vacancies will be advertised locally and nationally, using a range of communication methods, to attract a wide range of candidates.
- c) Advertisements may encourage applicants from particular demographic groups where they are under-represented on the Board.

Appointments process

- a) At the point of recruiting for a Board vacancy, an Appointments Panel will be formed, comprising the Chief Executive, the Chair of the Board, one member of the Personnel and Remuneration (P&R) Committee and two members from the Members' Forum. These members will be chosen by the P&R Committee and Members' Forum, with the Chair of each having the final decision.
- b) The Appointments Panel will shortlist applications for consideration, according to the skills/experience of the applicant and the skills required by the Board. This will have regard to Appendix A: Selection Criteria for Board Member Applications.
- c) The Chair of the Board and Chief Executive may consider using an external consultant to assess candidates for Board membership, especially when appointing to key positions, for example Chair or Chair designate.
- d) Candidates will be invited to an interview with the Appointments Panel to discuss their application. The Panel may offer a position on the Board to the most appropriate applicant by way of a simple majority decision, subject to Board and Member approval. If the Appointments Panel cannot agree upon an applicant, then no recommendation will be made to the Board or Members.

Retirement and Election of Board Members

In accordance with Soha's Rules, a person can only become a Board member if they are also a shareholding Member with the exception of co-optees and the Executive member.

It is the responsibility of Soha Members to appoint Board members at the AGM.

Those who became Board members prior to 1 April 2021, can serve three terms of three years, i.e., up to a maximum of nine years. From 1 April 2021, Board members can serve two terms of three years i.e., up to a maximum of six years. They must stand for re-election after the completion of one term and, subject to the skills and experience required on the Board, may be offered further terms of office.

All Board members who retire after completing their full term of either nine or six years' service are eligible for re-selection after three years of not being a Board member.