

## **CIH Blog, September 2018**

I started back at Mansfield District Council as an Engagement & Development Officer for the shared homelessness service about four months ago. My manager asked me if I wanted to be a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing. I'll be honest I didn't know much about it to start with but I am keen to try new things. So I looked into it and I realised that being a member could really boost my knowledge of the housing profession and help me in learning the different topics and legislations to do with housing. Homeless legislation is going through some serious changes this year and CIH has helped me understand this and given me ideas on how I can develop the service that I work in.

So far I have looked at the courses and training that CIH offers and I am keen to study a level 5 Diploma in Housing which my manager is keen to support. I also look regularly to see what training is available locally to further my knowledge in the field. I enjoy the weekly newsletters that get sent through my door as it gives me a chance to see what other housing providers are doing around the country and what the current debates are. I also read the briefings and books on the website to further my knowledge within the field. CIH is a fountain of knowledge for a young person who wants to progress their career within housing.

I have worked in local authority for 3 ½ years so far, a year in the housing field. I am currently 28 years old and find that I am the youngest person in the room at meetings most of the time, which can sometimes be daunting. However I dedicate time to learn policies and procedures within the housing field so I can be confident in my field of work. CIH has helped with this. My managers are extremely supportive and are keen for me to express any new ideas that I may have to develop services in homelessness. My experience of being a young person working in housing so far has been extremely enjoyable. No two days are the same and there are lots of services and partners to work with. There are plenty of challenges and I am really encouraged to develop my ideas within the housing service which keeps me very busy. I can honestly say I would like to progress my career within the housing service and I believe CIH can help me with this.

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