

Kate Christie

Having worked for and reported to several management boards, I had a fairly good idea of how they work. Having worked in housing for about 12 years, and led the Scottish housing associations charity, Lintel Trust, for the past 8 years, I felt I had knowledge and experience to share.

I am passionate about the role of housing associations in improving lives by offering opportunities to their communities. When I was contacted through the SFHA's On Board scheme, I was immediately interested. I have connections with the Borders. My Dad was a KOSB (Kings Own Scottish Borderers) and my daughter was working in Galashiels. I have lived in and worked with communities in rural areas and recognise the unique challenges not faced by those in urban areas.

The Board and staff at Waverley are really great people to work with. This is my first board role and I was slightly apprehensive at first. I was made to feel incredibly welcome and learned a great deal in a short time. There is a wide variety of people and experience on the board which leads to robust scrutiny and lots of helpful suggestions. I really enjoy working with a group of people with a genuine desire to help Waverley succeed while also ensuring it is being well run, with tenants first and foremost in decision making.

I would say to anyone unsure if it is for them, give it a go! Attend a meeting as an observer to find out if it is a good fit for you.

Not only is it a brilliant opportunity to give something back by sharing your skills but I have learned so much from both board colleagues and the staff team at Waverley. We receive board papers in good time, get plenty of notice of meetings, receive regular and relevant training opportunities and can attend meetings remotely or in person.

Everyone is listened to and all opinions heard which is what makes this a positive place to be part of.

I am a big music fan and love live music and dancing. Hillwalking or any kind of activity in nature makes me happy, particularly in Scotland. I am an avid reader and play the piano as a way to relax when my three cats, two kids and partner give me a chance.