



Job description for NPIF/North England and Midlands Hub Strata Homes secondment

Duration: 4 months – to be completed 31 August 2021, part time (we anticipate for approx. 20 hrs/week) (candidates must be able to undertake all the work before August 2021)

Location: Homebased

Remuneration: current salary will be matched in most cases, exact requirements to be discussed on appointment. (pro rata as applicable)

1. The opportunity

CaCHE is delighted to offer an exciting opportunity for a social sciences researcher to work across academia and the private sector to help develop a shared vision for housing and placemaking in the north and midlands of England.

This secondment provides an excellent opportunity to develop experience in applied knowledge exchange and research work which bridges academia and the private sector. Through this opportunity you will:

- Gain valuable work experience with a leading industry partner
- Demonstrate leadership on a discrete package of work, including managing time, project milestones and the overall focus of a project
- Gain experience in the production of high quality and impactful outputs which will be published widely (subject to peer review)
- Build new personal networks and partnerships across policy, practice and academia
- Be able to demonstrate an impact on policy/practice through your work.

2. The role

You will spend around four months working alongside Strata Homes.

You will be responsible for the following activities:

- Identify key stakeholders and build a regional network in the north of England and Midlands
- Collate and analyse information and knowledge about regional housing markets in the north and midlands of England
- Manage a discrete project from inception to dissemination, focused on issues relevant to the current context of regional housing markets to be led by the secondee in partnership with Strata and CaCHE
- Organise and run workshops to bring together key stakeholders across the sector and help build networks and partnerships in the region
- Write and oversee the production of a concise Policy Brief with accompanying video/animation, liaising with external providers as necessary

You would be line managed and supported jointly by Strata and CaCHE. You will be provided with access to necessary IT resources and support to facilitate remote working

3. The candidate

The opportunity would be particularly suited to a social sciences researcher with interests in the built environment, housing markets, environmental sustainability, or local and regional economic development.

You will be a good networker, able to work across organisational and disciplinary boundaries, whilst able to demonstrate a good understanding of research methods. You will have an ability to collate, synthesise complex ideas into accessible and digestible outputs. You will be numerate and a good communicator.

You will also have the skills and enthusiasm to work across diverse networks of stakeholders in the academic, public and private sectors

Eligibility

This placement opportunity is open to any Early Career Researcher in the social sciences at the following White Rose Universities:

- University of Leeds
- University of Sheffield
- University of York
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Manchester Met University
- University of Hull
- University of Bradford

4. Person Specification and selection criteria

- PhD or equivalent professional qualification or experience in a relevant discipline.
- Research, policy or practitioner interests in housing, placemaking, built environment, sustainability, local or regional economic development, or related fields
- Broad familiarity with a range of different research methods, including undertaking literature reviews, qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Be confident and sociable and willing to engage with colleagues across Strata Homes
- Ability to work collaboratively and flexibly in a busy work environment and in multi-disciplinary teams
- A self-starter who is confident and personable, with an ability to work in a friendly, outgoing and professional manner with colleagues, partners and other stakeholders and research beneficiaries
- Excellent IT skills, including experience of key collaborative office software (e.g. Microsoft 365, Google G Suite) and communications (e.g. Zoom, Teams, etc.)
- Good planning and organisational skills and the ability to manage conflicting demands and meet deadlines.

5. Timelines and process

Applications will be by completed application form (attached) and short CV

These should be submitted to Gareth Young at CaCHE (gareth.young@sheffield.ac.uk) by Wednesday, 14 April 2021 (23:59 BST).

14 April 2021	Deadline for applications
Early May 2021	Work with colleagues at Stata and UoS to agree the programme of work
May-August 2021	Undertake the programme of work
June 2021	Develop and plan workshop to disseminate findings and develop recommendations and next steps
July 2021	Present current progress and emerging findings to Strata/UoS
August 2021	Finalise outputs (in agreement with Strata/UoS)
August 2021	Deliver dissemination workshop

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Gareth Young (gareth.young@sheffield.ac.uk).

6. Background information

6.1. About CaCHE and the North England and Midlands Hub

A key objective for the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) was to develop meaningful relationships with key stakeholders across the housing system as broadly as possible from policymakers, practitioners, frontline staff, residents and other academics, to ensure that the work we do can help have a positive impact on policy and practice and to make evidence more accessible.

Drawing on their varied perspectives and expertise, participants agreed that as part of the [North England and Midlands Hub](#) we should be working to develop an evidence-based narrative, setting out the rationale and making the case for investment in housing and placemaking that reflects the specific challenges and opportunities in the north and midlands of England. Participants resolved to develop this holistically, ensuring that views and perspectives of residents, tenants and communities, as well as policymakers, practitioners and frontline staff and should be included. It was agreed that we would adopt a place-based approach to our analysis, seeing housing as part of the local economic, physical and social infrastructure of places, and how they are connected. It was widely agreed that a narrative for housing and placemaking in the north and midlands of England needs to focus on the quality of existing stock and places as well as questions of new supply.

6.2. About Strata

Strata Homes were founded in 1919, and have over 100 years' experience designing and building quality, contemporary new homes. They are a unique brand synonymous with contemporary design, innovative marketing and exemplary levels of customer service. From the house type range, the web-driven sales process, to the show home experience and personalisation options coupled with an absolute adherence to quality: Strata Homes are

truly focused on exceeding customer expectation. They were awarded 'The Best Place To Work' in the UK at the UK Business Awards 2019^{6.3}. *About the secondment*

The secondment is funded through the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF), designed to bridge the gap between academia and private sector industries, to foster new relationships and to help build and strengthen them to develop strong, mutually-beneficial relationships.

The secondment will be hosted by Strata Homes and will focus on reviewing relevant evidence on housing demand, aspirations and constraints, aligning with the business needs of the organisation. The successful candidate will lead on the production of knowledge exchange, practice and policy outputs.

The candidate will be responsible for leading the intellectual activity and associated workshop to develop findings, including identifying key stakeholders.