



Representative Body candidate statements

Rosa Abreu

I am a European foreign citizen and confronted some racial discrimination, traumas and difficulties that I have proudly overcome. I am certain that England is my home, where I had the opportunity to learn, grow and develop my skills that are still in continuous development. A neurodivergent individual, I worked as SEN teaching assistant/support worker; currently working for a trust where I support teens during lunchtime and I do some cleaning work for a primary school. Mother of two SEN children and as a carer of one child with severe complex conditions, a professional, and tenant, I feel that I need this opportunity to speak on behalf of thousands of Rochdale residents. So, I decided to be a candidate myself this year.

I believe that the deepening housing crisis, antisocial activities, and welfare are increasing inequality, as a Representative I will do my best to ensure to uphold our victims of anti-social behaviour and vandalism and assist families having voices to hear.

Personally, I have been trying to get involved with the Heywood community. I am excited to be engaged with this project and become a member of the Representative Body of RBH.

Thanks for reading and speak to you sooner.

Phionah Byereta

My name is Phionah Byereta and I would like to be part of the Representative Body of the RBH 2024. I have been a tenant of RBH for a lot of years now and my work in the community around Rochdale and the surrounding areas has brought me a lot of experience of understanding the area and the people that live in it. I speak to people on the ground and know what they are experiencing, which will be helpful if I am a representative for the RBH as this information will help improve the lives of the people supported by RBH. Listening and working together will bring the community to greater heights.

Patrycja Zofia Dembinska

Equality for immigrants. I am an immigrant: Polish, 41 year old, 2 children, one Polish, the other British - Asian. I have encountered great racism, discrimination in this country. Lack of inequality and division of people which creates inequality, lack of tolerance, acceptance, language barrier. I did Social Care school but it did not change the situation to become the same as citizens of this country due to their hostile attitude. I have been a tenant of RBH for several years, I constantly strive for honesty and cooperation but it is difficult because people make selection by status, origin, and religion.

I would like to meet people such ordinary people who do not have a position, such people are very valuable because their position has not changed them. We need such people who are trusted to help others without calculation or benefits. We live in this world for ourselves and not against each other. Openness, understanding, empathy have been failing in offices recently, so it is worth analyzing, changing, cooperating to help everyone and learning honesty, trust that is lacking from offices. Supporting each other is my concept because currently people are frustrated, aggressive with a lack of trust in the State. For me, home is a safe home and the State puts little work into integration because most people start to think only about their needs and not others. Money is not everything and the world is heading towards this.

Ian Dodd

I am a long term RBH tenant of over ten years, I live in Middleton and lived in Heywood a number of years and frequent elsewhere often in the borough, so can relate to other tenants, issues, demands, requirements and expectations.

I am a certified Construction Manager and Technician with other qualifications in legal studies and the performance of Construction materials. I studied in Preston at UCLAN 2008-10.

I aim to help other tenants acquire a better standard of living across the borough, through my knowledge of building specifications I shall endeavour to get improvements made. I am also keen to be involved with the forthcoming inevitable development strategy RBH may wish to employ, I look to keep Social housing working cohesively alongside the Atom Valley proposals.

Robert Dyson

I am a member of RBH and a tenant and also I am working alongside the diversity and inclusion strategy team within Rochdale Boroughwide Housing.

I am also on the complaints panel trying to make everything a lot easier and making sure that RBH stick within the guidelines and procedures to give tenants and residents a fair process to resolve matters fairly.

I am looking to become a Representative tenant member to ensure that RBH are sticking to the commitment and values for the whole of Rochdale within social housing.

Barbara Edwards

I'm passionate when it comes to humanity in general. I'm a "get things done" person not one to sit on my hands (and backside) waiting for others to facilitate. I've got excellent people skills and being an empath is an advantage. Also having good communication skills and really listening is essential. People warm to me probably because I'm down to earth with a no frills attitude. I'm 77 soon so I've lived through life's hard knocks. I'm an outgoing extrovert with bags of confidence and like to believe I can tackle any situation and challenges. Most of all I really care for people in my community and if I can make a difference then I'm "up for it"!

Harold Hull

I have lived in the bungalows at Thistleyfield since 2006. My work was in the health service as a nurse from 1966 until 2017. I am currently still active both physically and mentally.

I applied for election to the board in 2023 and narrowly failed to be elected.

Despite not being elected I have been able to make progress with some of the ideas that I had as a result of opportunistic contact with an RBH Director, which bore fruit not only for residents in Thistleyfield, but hopefully benefitted other tenants within RBH.

I still have ideas to bring forward should I be elected which I would willingly share with other board members and RBH directors, and look forward to new challenges.

Andrew Johnson

My name is Andrew Johnson and I live at College Bank in Rochdale. I'm currently a member of the Rep Body and am standing for re-election. It's vitally important that RBH has a clear understanding of what our priorities are; every property has to be checked for damp and mould and while doing this the repair team can identify other repairs that need doing. It is clear that RBH has to make the investments to make our homes and communities safe places to live in. It is important that there are tenants involved in planning RBH's strategy and reviewing its performance.

I believe that I have the knowledge and experience (I've been involved in RBH for many years) to identify how we proceed. I feel passionately that RBH has to treat all areas of the Borough fairly and equally, if elected I will fight for all of our communities in Rochdale, Littleborough, Castleton, Heywood and Middleton. We are a mutual Housing Association, the great thing about the Rep Body is that it is comprised of tenants and employees working together for all of our interests, I hope you will consider voting for me so I can play a part in the vitally important work that has to be done.

Samantha Jones

I have a lot to give to the neighbourhood with activities and making the community a better place for young people. I wish to let them have their own space to do what they want and make a difference. I would also love to get the elderly involved in the community by opening an allotment for them.

Roy Kitcher

My name is Roy Kitcher, I have lived in College Bank since 2011, and have been an RBH and council tenant since 1976.

I want to join the rep body to represent tenants throughout Rochdale, make things better in our homes and communities, and ensure RBH listen to tenants and residents.

I have been part of the Save the Seven Sisters group for four years, and have helped to build a more positive relationship with RBH and College Bank residents, and I work with elected councillors, and tenants across the borough. I am also part of Greater Manchester Tenants Union, and have been running a weekly drop in to support residents with housing issues, including getting repairs done, and dealing with problems with their tenancies, working closely with RBH support staff and the council to resolve problems.

If you elect me as your representative I will stand up for tenants interests, but work collaboratively with RBH staff and management to improve our homes and neighbourhoods across the borough, and will be a strong voice for you.

Keith Lesbirel

I moved to Wray Place 6 and a half years ago and the street was like a war zone and rubbish dumped everywhere. It's still crazy at times but that's being dealt with because I got to a point of enough is enough so I'm doing something about it. Even with all this craziness I absolutely love it here, surrounded by gorgeous countryside the canal I walk the dog on. We have it all here - people don't open their eyes. I'd love to be elected to the rep body I think I could bring a lot to the table. I just want us all, as a community to get on and not live in fear. I look out for my neighbours I love them all and I enjoy doing it. Hope it was not too rambling I just care about our community and all who live here. I've never done anything like this before and the more I think of it I'd love to be elected.

Antony Mallinson

My mission if elected would be to represent all tenants, especially the tenants who have limited resources or have health issues and those who have no support from family and social anxiety. My experience at Jack McCann Court shows that many people are afraid to socialise due to a variety of reasons and these people are the ones that need more support.

Alifa Mbawo

I am a tenant of RBH and interested in this role. I qualified with a Masters in Mental Health Nursing at University of Salford in September 2016 and joined St Andrews Healthcare where I was awarded care awards for Accountability in April 2017 and Excellence in September 2017. Currently I work with Oldham Community Mental Health Team as a CPN/Care Coordinator/Approved Mental Health Professional.

I take pride and relish working in a challenging and responsible position where both professional qualification and career progression are norms. I am very enthusiastic about working with people with different mental health conditions, an opportunity that will allow me to provide personalised support to recognise their individuality. I have exceptional transferable skills which make me a suitable candidate for the role.

Although I am not experienced, I have transferable skills to bring to the role and as a tenant I am very passionate about making a difference to my community. I am committed to the mutual values and principles of RBH moreover this is a great opportunity to meet new people and enhance my communication skills.

Karen Perkin

I have lived in Heywood for 18 years, seen it go through many changes and not all good, I was a local business owner until Covid locked us down. I have 5 adult children 21,22,29,30 and 35, I have been a manager and a school governor and senior governor at a high school and a governor at a primary school, I love to craft and spend time with my dogs and family, we have made long term friends and new friends of various ethnicities in our local area.

I believe I can bring a different perspective to the table, and ideas for improvement of Heywood and its tenants.

Samantha Scotson

I have been a RBH tenant for 30 years. I have also been an employee of Rochdale adult services. I have also worked for a well known housing association and during that time I completed a HNC in Housing Studies before taking the plunge and becoming a social worker within adult services for another local authority. I care about people and I advocate for service users when I am working in front line services.

I currently work as a Quality Improvement Social Worker where I support care homes and care agencies to improve quality within these services by completing audits and creating an action plan for the home to complete within specified time frames. We have a very hands-on approach and find that this builds good relationships with providers, senior management and the care staff supporting the service users.

I have worked in social care and housing for 40 years and have a wide range of knowledge and skills required to provide good services to people using our services. As a tenant of RBH I have encounter situations of frustration where I feel I have been treated as a second-class citizen. To be fair this has significantly improved over the years but like many organisations there is always room for improvement.

Seetharam Srinivas

I have stood to be a representative member few times before and thought I would like to do it again.