



## **About Tamil Housing – Home Page Flyer**

### **The refugee and self-help tradition**

Tamil Community Housing Association was initially constituted in 1986 as the Tamil Refugee Action Group (TRAG), a self-help initiative, to address the housing and support needs of Tamil refugees in the London area.

### **Service to the wider community**

In 1996 TRAG changed its role and was launched as Tamil Community Housing Association with a dual objective of looking after the needs of refugees and those of the Tamil community settled in the UK, primarily in the Greater London area.

### **Became a Registered Social Landlord (RSL)**

The Association registered as an Industrial and Provident Society with charitable status on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2003 and became a member of the National Housing Federation. TCHA currently operates in 11 London Boroughs and work in partnership with more than 40 partner organisations. Our partners include investment partner organisations, other HAs, LAs and VCOs.

## **TCHA- VISION, MISSION, MOVING FORWARD & MANAGING RISKS**

### **Our vision**

TCHA's purpose is to provide quality homes and excel in the provision of culturally sensitive services for the Tamil community and other refugees and migrants through self-help and empowerment.

### **Our guiding principles**

- ✓ Ensure our work is rooted in the community.
- ✓ Put tenants and community first and investing in them.
- ✓ Working together and valuing each other.
- ✓ A 'can do' approach.
- ✓ Run a 'sound' business.
- ✓ An optimum return is achieved from all our investments and tenants and customers of the results achieved.
- ✓ Ensure equality of opportunities is practiced in all areas of TCHA's business.
- ✓ Aspire to achieve excellence in services in all areas of the business.
- ✓ Promote environmentally practices and services, where possible.

### **Our strategic objectives:**

- Do what matters most to tenants.
- Build TCHA's capacity to respond to changes in the housing sector whilst taking into account the changing needs and aspirations of the community.
- TCHA serves as a 'community anchor' - to meet the new and emerging needs and aspirations of the wider Tamil community and other refugees and migrants.
- Make TCHA's business stronger for the future.

**Our operational objectives:**

- Improve existing homes.
- Make our services more accessible to current tenants and others.
- Invest in our people – Board, staff, tenants and partners.
- Improve user involvement and participation in all our activities.
- Invest in neighbourhoods.
- Understand the new and emerging needs of TCHA’s current tenants and future customers.
- Invest in new areas of business and community initiatives.
- Expand TCHA’s services to places where the Tamil community is growing.
- Develop new, and strengthen existing, local partnerships with Local Authorities (LAs), Housing Associations (HAs) and Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCOs).
- Build the business case for culturally specific service provision.
- Diversify the funding base.

**CURRENT HOUSING STOCK INFORMATION**

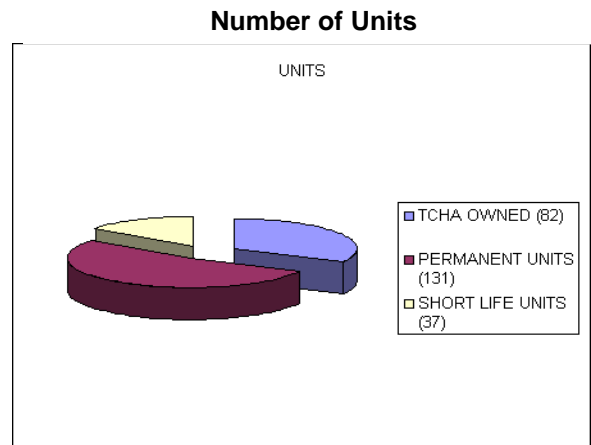
**Current stock:**

At present TCHA owns and manages a total of 284 units. TCHA currently own 105 units out of the 284 and the rest (179) are permanently managed by TCHA on behalf of other Associations. Out of the 179 units (which we permanently manage on behalf of other Associations), 20 will be transferred to TCHA’s for ownership in March 15.

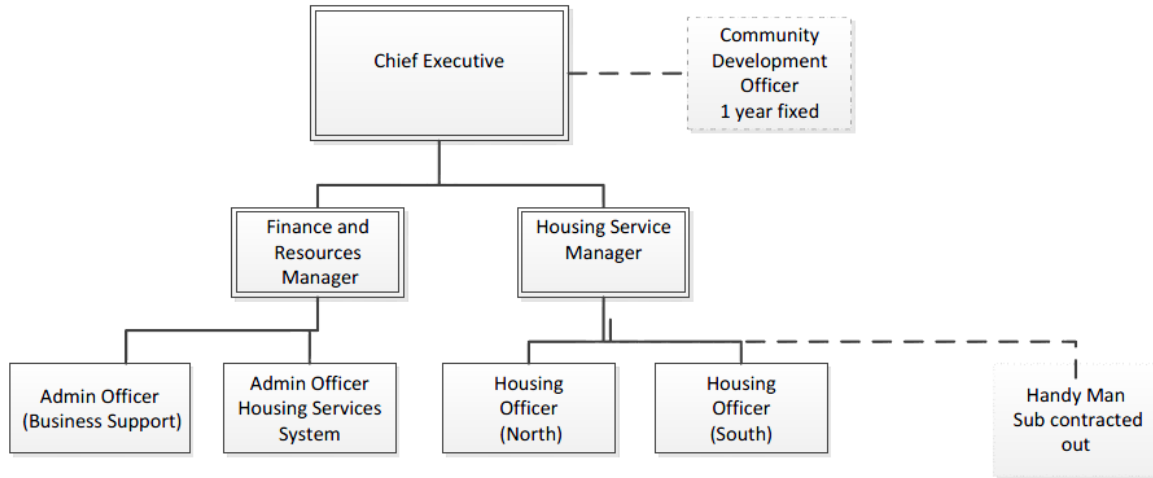
We have achieved minimum Decent Homes Standards for the units that we currently own (105 units). We also have completed the stock condition survey for planned maintenance work for the units that already in TCHA’s ownership.

**Housing stock and geographical areas of operation**

At present TCHA own and manage properties in 11 London boroughs.



## Staff Structure



**Board Members & Staff**

Name	Job Title	Profile
Mr S Varathalingam - Chair	Team leader , Highways Department, LB of Walthamforest	Former Policy Manager for Housing, Adult Social care & Best Value Principal Desk Officer Housing Services at LB of Walthamforest. Previously, worked as a Lecturer at Middlesex University and also served as the Senior Housing Officer and Equalities Manager. Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing.
Mr M Sivarajah – Vice Chair	Managing Director – K S Building Services and Engineering Ltd	Electrical and Mechanical Services Contracting Engineer previously involved in the delivery of major projects for Barclays Bank, Major Hotel Chains and the Pharmaceutical Industry. Member of Institute of Engineering, Associate Member of Institute of Chartered Building Services Engineering and Member of Electrical Contractors Association.
Devan Kanthasamy – Secretary	CEO – Tamil Housing	Formerly worked as the Projects Manager at Housing Associations Charitable Trust, a national housing trust. Lead on the delivery of national housing exemplar projects. Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing. Also previously worked as a Fundraiser from Trusts and Foundations as well as Statutory and EU Funding. Trustee of Migration Works. Academic background includes Town and Country Planning & Public Policy Making and Administration Contact: <a href="mailto:devan@tamilhousing.org.uk">devan@tamilhousing.org.uk</a> or 020 8493 7160.
Mr M Thavendrarajah – Treasurer	Finance Director – SHIAN Housing	Qualified Management Accountant with over 25 years' experience in the Social Housing Sector. Previously worked in the Consumer Electronic Sector.



**Tamil Community Housing Association**

தமிழர் சமூக வீட்டுவசதிக் கழகம்

Tamil Housing - culturally centred, community driven

Name	Job Title	Profile
Mr S Arnold, FCCA – Board Member	Partner – BBK Partners	Director in Several Companies specialises in business development and acquisition.
Mr C Boston – Board Member	Senior Manager- Lambeth Living	Trained Barrister worked in Senior Management roles in various housing associations for more than 20 years.
Mrs Brintha Muhunthanan – Board Member	Management Accountant – Local Space Ltd	Formerly worked as Finance Officer at Toynbee Housing now known as One Housing Group. Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians.
Miss E P Mann – Board Member	Cllr of Southwark, Spokes Person for Communities & Citizenship	Formerly served as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Southwark & Community Champion. Worked in the National Health Service for more than 25 years.
Mr S V Moorthy – Board Member (Tenant affairs)	Retired Civil Servant	Community member & activist
Mr Michael Verrier – Board Member	London & Quadrant Resident Involvement Representative	More than 20 years' experience in social housing and community safety sector work. Equality & Diversity Trainer.
Ms Aketa – Tenant Representative	Social Care Student	To be updated
Mr S Thiru – Co-opted Board Member	Retired Solicitor	Recently retired after running a successful law practice for more than 30 years.
Mrs S Thiruchelvanayagam –Tenant Representative	Sales Assistant	Community member, volunteer Teacher, involved in supporting community and faith groups, namely, Tamil Relief Centre and Christ The King Tamil Association.