

New Chair for Group



The Accord Group has appointed a new Chair of its Board.

Elisabeth Buggins CBE DL takes over the key role for the Accord Group at a very demanding time for the housing sector. Mrs. Buggins has 40 years' experience in health and care services. She has chaired Strategic Health Authorities, NHS Trusts, served as non-executive director or advisor in the private sector and charities and is currently chairing Eastern Academic Health Sciences Network.

Elisabeth chaired the UK Organ Donation Taskforce from 2006-9, publishing three major reports on ways to increase organ donation, radically improving access to transplants. Elisabeth has also been awarded two honorary doctorates, made a CBE and is appointed Deputy Lieutenant.

On taking up her new role with Accord, she said; *“I am delighted to be taking the helm at an exciting time for Accord. I'm really pleased to be involved in their on-going success in creating high quality affordable housing, health and social care services, and in building strong communities. My thanks must also go to Akshay for his huge contribution over the past years.”*

Elisabeth has taken over from former Chair, Akshay Parikh, who has stepped down following the end of his term of office.

Akshay said: *“It is with a mixture of sadness of having to step down and delight at Elisabeth's appointment that I hand over the reins. Elisabeth has been an amazing Deputy Group Chair – dedicated, committed and passionate. I am sure she will bring all these qualities and more to her role as Group Chair.”*

Chief Executive of Accord, Dr. Chris Handy, OBE, said: *“It is an important time for Accord as we want to continue to build more great homes and deliver services to those most in need and improve our performance yet further.”*

Dr. Handy added: *“Enormous thanks go to our outgoing Chair, Akshay Parikh for his visionary steer and lead over the past nine years, and a very warm welcome to Elisabeth.”*

Elisabeth has a keen interest in social justice and in helping people thrive within communities, as evidenced by her

role as leader in the Big Feed programme and by chairing Walsall Refugee and Asylum Seekersâ Support Association.
