

All Party Parliamentary Group on Ending Homelessness



AGM Meeting Minutes

17 October 2018, 16.00-16.45, Room P, Portcullis House

Attendees:

Will Quince MP
Neil Coyle MP
Bob Blackman MP
Ivan Lewis MP
Ben Bradley MP
Emma Reynolds MP
Mike Wood MP
Stephen Timms MP
Tonia Antoniazzi MP
Lord Shipley
Liz McInnes MP
Vicky Ford MP
Stephen McCabe MP
Laura Hutchinson, Office of Neil Coyle MP
Daniel Ellis, Office of Will Quince MP

Secretariat:

Matthew Downie, Crisis
Martine Martin, Crisis
Leah Miller, Crisis

Welcome and apologies	
Update on All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ending Homelessness (APPGEH)	
Overview	<p>Co-Chair Neil Coyle welcomed all attendees and spoke about the history of the APPGEH.</p> <p>He explained that the group was formed in 2016 with the aim of placing ending homelessness at the top of the political agenda and developing the policy solutions that will help prevent and end homelessness.</p>

	<p>The group is Co-Chaired by Neil Coyle MP and Will Quince MP and works with cross party MPs, sector experts and people who have experienced homelessness. The Secretariat is provided by Crisis.</p> <p>In its first year, the group focused on preventing homelessness, looking specifically at three cohorts; care leavers, people leaving prison and survivors of domestic violence. The group held an inquiry session on each cohort during which evidence was taken from a range of expert witnesses on the causes, impact and how best to prevent homelessness among these three groups. In July 2017 the APPG published a report based on the evidence heard which set out a series of recommendations on preventing homelessness.</p> <p>In its second year, the APPG continued work on calling for the adoption of these recommendations as well as shifting our focus to rapid response – how to best support those who do become homeless be rehoused as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Three inquiry sessions were held looking at migrant homelessness, rapid rehousing models and youth homelessness. The group also collected written evidence and held one-to-one meetings with stakeholders and people with lived experience to gather evidence for the inquiry report, which was published at a parliamentary reception held in July.</p> <p>Separate meetings had also been held with the APPG on Domestic Violence on the upcoming Domestic Abuse Bill and St Mungo’s on the deaths of rough sleepers, which was attended by Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention Minister Jackie Doyle-Price.</p> <p>For our third year, the APPG would be focusing on campaigning for the implementation of some of the recommendations from the two inquiries.</p> <p>The group would also hold public meetings on a range of topics that our members feel we should be looking into.</p>
Election of Chair/Co-Chair	
Overview	Bob Blackman MP (BB) moved that the election of the Chair/Co-Chairs of the APPG take place.

	<p>Emma Reynolds MP nominated Labour MP Neil Coyle for Co-Chair of the group. Parliamentary members of the group agreed that Neil Coyle should be re-elected as a Co-Chair of the Group.</p> <p>Neil Coyle MP nominated Conservative MP Will Quince for position of Co-Chair of the Group. All agreed that Will Quince should be re-elected as a Co-Chair.</p>
Action points	Secretariat to note election
Election of Vice-Chairs	
Overview	<p>Co-Chair of the APPG Will Quince MP noted that Mark Prisk MP was not seeking re-election as a Vice-Chair of the APPG. He paid tribute to Mr Prisk's work over the last two years with the APPG. He went on to note that Lord Bird and Rachel Maskell MP would like to be put forward for election and re-election as Vice-Chairs of the APPG in absentee. All agreed that both Lord Bird and Rachel Maskell should be elected as Vice-Chairs.</p> <p>Mr Quince then invited members present to put themselves forward for election as Vice-Chairs. Bob Blackman MP, Ben Bradley MP, Emma Reynolds MP, Mike Wood MP, Stephen Timms MP, Tonia Antoniazzi MP and Ivan Lewis MP were all elected as Vice-Chairs.</p>
Action points	Secretariat to note election
Election of Officers	
Overview	<p>Will Quince then put forward Lord Shipley, Chris Stephens MP, Colleen Fletcher MP, Christian Matheson MP, Justin Madders MP, Emma Hardy MP and Nick Herbert MP for election and re-election as Officers of the Group. All agreed that they should be elected as Officers of the Group.</p> <p>He also thanked the Secretariat for their work supporting the APPG, as well as other organisations who are members of the group.</p>
Discussion on campaigns areas for 2018-19	
Overview	<p>Will Quince passed onto Matthew Downie to present on campaigns areas that the APPG would be focusing on for 2018-19.</p> <p>He explained that the APPG was turning its focus to campaigning on some of the previous APPG recommendations.</p>

	<p>This was in the hope that it would help ensure the APPG is truly a vehicle for change and not just seen as a talking shop.</p> <p>The first recommendation was that National Government should extend priority need status to all survivors of domestic abuse. He explained that currently, survivors of domestic abuse were only considered a priority for housing if they passed the vulnerability test. The APPG had found that this had led to some survivors being turned away when approaching their local council for help as they were not considered vulnerable enough. Automatic priority need for this group was therefore a clear priority for the group, he said.</p> <p>The second recommendation the group would be focusing on was scrapping the no recourse to public funds condition for people applying for leave to remain under the family/private life rules when they have a dependent child, care leavers and victims of domestic abuse and modern slavery. He highlighted current cases of children being taken into care as a result of the NRPF condition being applied to families. The APPG had been in discussion with the Children’s Society on this recommendation, as well as other organisation working on the issue, and had discussed the recommendation with Housing and Homelessness Minister Heather Wheeler and a Home Office official.</p> <p>The third area of focus for this year was the recommendation to extend the 28 day ‘move-on’ period for refugees from 28 days to 56 days. This would bring the move-one period in line with new homelessness legislation and give refugees longer to sort out their affairs before move-on support ceases.</p> <p>Finally, he thanked the Co-Chairs for all their hard work on the APPG and for tirelessly working to keep homelessness at the top of the political agenda.</p>
Action points	Secretariat to note agreement with three areas of campaign priority.
Discussion on other potential meetings and activities for 2018-19	
Overview	Emma Reynolds MP suggested that the APPG should hold the Government to account on what they’re promising and what they’re delivering. The Group should encourage the Government to deliver on promises, such as ending rough sleeping by 2027, but should also hold them to account if falling short of meeting its targets.

The group agreed that this should be a priority for the APPG in the coming year.

Vicky Ford MP suggested that the group should hear more about best practice. For example, she suggested hearing from a prison delivering well on homelessness prevention among prison leavers.

It was proposed that the APPG hold a session on this and invite local authorities to attend to help spread best practice.

It was also suggested that the group could organise a visit to a prison delivering best practice work on this.

Ben Bradley MP noted that there was a need to better coordinate local agendas for tackling homelessness. He highlighted the proliferation of local groups established to help address homelessness in the local area, but suggested that a lack of a joint focus or coordinated effort meant they were not helping solve the crisis.

Liz McInnes MP said that Andy Burnham was trying to co-ordinate those groups and make sure they were working together better.

Ivan Lewis MP suggested that Greater Manchester could present to the APPG on implementing a holistic strategy for addressing homelessness.

Matthew Downie said the group could invite pilot areas to meet with it, which could shine a light on what can be achieved.

Bob Blackman MP proposed that the APPG hold a meeting on how the duty to refer is operating in practice. He said that not all councils appeared to be carrying out their statutory duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act and suggested bringing in a local authority to hear their experiences of trying to fulfil these duties.

Lord Shipley suggested holding a meeting on Housing First looking at how it works, what support mechanism is provided through a Housing First model and how the approach could help prevent homelessness for certain cohorts, i.e. prison leavers.

Ben Bradley MP noted the growth of diversity giving schemes in local areas, e.g. using top-up cards to donate to homeless shelters.

Matthew Downie suggested that a meeting could be held on how the public can best respond to rough sleepers to lift the lid on what the evidence is for good interventions.

It was then suggested that the APPG could help coordinate volunteering opportunities for parliamentary members with homelessness organisations.

Emma Reynolds MP argued that the APPG should explore mental health and homelessness, something that the group had not looked at yet.

Ben Bradley MP said the group could look at drug dependency among homeless people as well. He suggested a piece of work on NHS spending on prevention and community support services.

Matthew Downie noted that the Rough Sleeping Strategy included some extra funding for mental health outreach services.

Will Quince MP then highlighted ideas for public meetings that had been discussed at the APPG's Steering Group meeting. These were:

- **Homelessness, a public health issue** – This should be an opportunity to hear from the Bureau of Investigative Journalism on its work published last week which found that 449 people had died whilst homeless over the past 12 months. PHE Chief Executive Duncan Selbie could also be invited to present on their work 'Homelessness inequalities – How do we stop the homeless dying', alongside Mental Health and Inequalities Minister Jackie Doyle-Price and RCP lead fellow for health inequalities and inclusion Dr Pippa Medcalf.
- **The role of public bodies in preventing homelessness** – showcase work from pilot areas and publicise Duty to Refer report. Potential witnesses include leads from pilot areas i.e. Newcastle Trailblazer.
- **Homelessness Reduction Act, one year on.** A chance to look at how implementation of the HRA has worked in practice during its first year. Local Government Association, Homelessness Minister Nigel Adams, Bill Thorpe.
- **Annual lecture** - An opportunity for the APPG to invite a high-profile figure to discuss significant developments in homelessness policy. E.g. An update and review of the implementation of the Rough Sleeping Strategy so far with Dame Louise Casey / panel discussion with the city region Mayors.

	It was agreed that these were sensible ideas for public meetings.
AOB	
Overview	Closing the session, Will Quince thanked Crisis for providing Secretariat to the APPG. He also thanked all the other organisations and individuals who have supported the APPG's work.
Actions and deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to note the outcome of the AGM and re-register group • Secretariat to write up and share the minutes of the meeting.