

All Party Parliamentary Group on Ending Homelessness



Housing First report launch

Meeting Minutes

20 July, 10-11.30am, Zoom

Attendees:

Neil Coyle MP, APPG Co-Chair
Bob Blackman MP, APPG Co-Chair
Eddie Hughes MP
Sally-Ann Hart MP
Bishop of Manchester
Rupa Huq MP
Jeff Smith MP

Parliamentary staff:

Graeme Smith, Office of Neil Coyle MP
Amy Dolley, Office of Stephen Timms MP

Secretariat:

Emily Batchelor, Secretariat to APPG

Other:

Ruth Jacob, Crisis
Jasmine Basran, Crisis
Saskia Neibig, Crisis
Maeve McGoldrick, Crisis
Matt Downie, Crisis
Alice Parsons, Crisis
Hannah Slater, Crisis
Chris Hicks, Crisis
Jon Sparkes, Crisis
Hazel Buontempo, Crisis
Pratichi Chatterjee, Crisis
Alex Smith, Homeless Link
Alexandra Williams, NRLA
Alison Adkins, Cherwell District Council
Andrea Gilbert, Labour Homelessness Campaign
Anthony Castagnetti, SafeLives
Caroline Schulman, NHS
Christopher Hartley, Salvation Army
Esme Davies, GMCA
Ewa Kapica, CSTM
Guddy Burnet, Standing Together
Harriet Page, Dogs Trust
Hazel O'Halloran, Bromford Council
Hugh Currie, St Mungo's
Jean Templeton, St Basils
Jo Bhandal, Akt
Jonathan Mutchell, Cherwell District Council
Kevin Lee, GMCA
Kieron Wilson, BCP Council

Panellists:

Eddie Hughes MP, Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing
Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority
Christopher, direct experience of Housing First

Louise Montgomery, Oakfnd
Lucy Richards, Running Charity
Lucy Robson, Oakfnd
Luke Sides, Hestia
Madeleine Marcateus, My Bnk
Martine Whitehead, Great Places Housing Group
Melanie Pope, NHF
Michael Allard, Crisis
Michelle Langan, The Paper Cup Project
Mike Hughes, GMCA
Natalie Wong, Standing Together
Neelam Sundar, WMCA
Nigel Hewett, Pathway and UCL
Rachel Dunfield, SYHA
Rebekah Lee, Release
Rev. Ian Rutherford
Rob Cartridge, Homeless Link
Robert White, Mayday Trust
Robin Tyne, Southwark Council
Sally Shire, Stonepillow
Scott Greenhalgh, Ethical Housing Company
Signe Gossman, Justlife
Sophia Hollis, Crisis
Steph Kleynhans, Shelter
Steve McIntyre, Stonewall Housing
Suzannah Young, NHF
Sylvia White
Vicky Ball, Phoenix Futures
Victoria Kell, LCR
Yvonne Connolly, Salvation Army
Jonathan Blake, BBC
Chris Scott, WMCA
Amandeep Hoonjan
Anna Yassin, Glassdoor
Liam Geraghty, Big Issue
Louisa Steele, Standing Together
Jennie Corbett, Homeless Link
Jo Richardson, DMU
Caroline O'Brien, MHCLG
Jason Kayley, Great Places
Sarah Walters, Crisis
Richard Hanford, Drugs, Alcohol and Justice cross-Party Parliamentary Group
Stephen Howse, Salvation Army
Sue Boran, QNI
Ben Sanders, Crisis
Helen Murdoch, Salvation Army
Clare Barber, LCR
Siobhan McHale, UoM

Welcome and apologies	
Introductions	
Bob Blackman MP	<p>Bob Blackman MP (BB) opened the meeting by introducing himself, welcoming attendees and briefly outlining the event format. He made comments on Housing First (HF) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lessons learnt from the Housing First pilots - The importance of having a secure home and the right assistance to rebuild your life when you experience homelessness - The APPG for Ending Homelessness' inquiry into the scaling up of Housing First across England - The opportunity of the Spending Review this autumn to invest in Housing First <p>BB introduced the first panellist Andy Burnham (AB), Mayor of Greater Manchester.</p>
Andy Burnham	<p>AB thanked BB and NC for inviting him to the launch, made several comments including on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That Housing First works, and that the pilot in Greater Manchester has accommodated 246. Target is 330. The current tenancy sustainment rate is 90% - That there is a massive cost of not investing in Housing First, and there is a cost-saving possible - The importance of a settled place which gives people breathing space - The success of the A Bed Every Night scheme in Greater Manchester - Housing First sets up people to succeed, by giving them a secure platform - The Government should make Housing First a permanent national policy - The importance of securing support and cooperation of the health service and DHSC, and that housing is a health issue - HF works but so does devolution, building a whole society approach to ending homelessness
Questions to AB, 18:18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bishop David Walker (DW) thanked AB and BB for their comments. He asked AB how to make the case for cost savings to the Treasury when these (in prevention) will not be realised tangibly? <p>AB said it was a challenge, but as well as a financial benefit there is an operational benefit, with police not having to go to A&E etc. There is potential for the creation of genuine partnerships between local government and the NHS. With joint commissioning budgets, the savings come back to one pot. While progress has been made, more needs to be done with regards to housing teams and mental health outreach teams. The need to stay as close as possible to the principles of Housing First to make the maximum gain.</p> 2. Neil Coyle MP (NC) apologised for having to leave early to go to a committee meeting and asked how long-term sustainable funding would change AB's ability to end homelessness? <p>AB said it would make all the difference and that is currently a cocktail of funding. There is a need for a more predictable funding stream. Greater Manchester Mayor's charity currently pays for people with no recourse of</p>

	<p>public funds in the A Bed in Every Night scheme, which is unacceptable. There is a need for a NRPF policy which allows for emergency accommodation provision. There is a contradiction between Everyone In as a principle and NRPF as a policy. There is a solution to ending rough sleeping and rough sleeping and a sustainable funding stream would solidify the progress made. Devolution provides a vehicle to pull these funding streams together.</p> <p>BB introduced the next panellist, Andy Street (AS), Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority.</p>
Andy Street	<p>AS thanked BB and made comments on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing First was the cornerstone of the approach of the WMCA to tackle rough sleeping and homelessness - It would be a tragedy not to build on the progress made so far - As of July 2021, 460 either currently or previously housed - That compares of November 2020, rough sleeper count of 44 across 7 authorities that make up the CA - It had seen the best reduction as a region over the past two years and there was no question that this would not have happened without this HF pilot - The immediate issue is ongoing funding, and there is a case to keep investing in the pilots at least until the formal review can be completed - The stickiness of the scheme- there is a long term effect and lives are genuinely transformed - On value for money – HF is not expensive, overwhelming moral and financial case for investments
Questions to AS, 32:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rupa Huq MP (RH) asked how existing schemes of homelessness services, provided by charitable and religious sectors, could be merged into Housing First models, and mentioned different types of services in her constituency in Acton. <p>AS said there were several aspects of HF that were specific and distinct from other services, such as the intensive support provided by a 1-2-1 case worker which links into every other agency. The voluntary sector provides feeding into the HF service but they are very different.</p> <p>BB introduced the next panellist Chris (C), who has lived experience of homelessness and using HF services in Liverpool.</p>
Chris, lived experience	<p>C shared his own experiences of homelessness and Housing First including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That he had experienced homelessness a couple of times in the last ten years. - Had experiences of debt, and was evicted - He got emergency accommodation in a hotel and then temporary accommodation and was referred to Housing First - From then, he had positive experiences. Importantly the support was there regardless of the situation, and resolve whatever the problem was. - Once he was referred, he found his flat, and secured furniture - His confidence has improved - All the support was geared towards him, and getting his life back on track - Nothing has been wrong with his experience of HF so far - Has his own laptop

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That HF is a success, and there is a need to continue and expand the scheme so that people can have the opportunity he has had - Now wants to get up and do things and feels like he has his own life back <p>Dan, C's caseworker, then spoke briefly but there were technical issues so we couldn't hear him clearly.</p> <p>BB thanked C for his contribution and welcomed the next panellist, Eddie Hughes MP (EH), the Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing.</p>
Eddie Hughes MP	<p>EH thanked C for his contribution, calling him an inspiration. He made remarks including comments on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need to track and provide the evidence that there are cost savings with schemes like HF - His background working for YMCA before he was an MP for the three years, and his understanding of the need to provide sustainable funding - With regard to the evaluation of the HF programmes, coronavirus pandemic have provided additional challenges - Questioned whether it would be appropriate or necessary to roll out across the whole country, given that the need would be small in certain areas - But for big metropolitan areas there are the benefits
Questions to EH, 49:36	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BB thanked EH for joining the event and asked about the evaluation of the pilots. <p>EH said the evaluation had occurred during the pandemic, and exceptional circumstances and that it was ongoing. The bids for the spending review will be made on this information and reports such as the APPGEH's.</p> <p>BB asked whether there would be a bid on HF to the spending review. EH said the bids from different ministers had to be considered but HF had his personal interest.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Robin Tyne (RT), Southwark Council, asked how service providers, and other interested providers, make the case to the Treasury for a long term funding settlement on homelessness (including HF pilots). <p>EH said there were two sides – the lived experience case and the financial value /value for money of the scheme.</p>
Bob Blackman MP	<p>BB thanked panellists, attendees and Secretariat. Jasmine Basran (JB), took a screenshot of panellists for social media use.</p>
Actions and deadlines	<p>Secretariat to send around minutes to attendees and both Chairs.</p>