



# Crisis Conference 2011

Welfare or unfair; will the reforms work for homeless people?

21 June 2011, Arlington Conference Centre, London

## AGENDA

9 am	Registration	
9.30	Welcome	<b>Nick Timmins</b> Financial Times Public Policy Editor
9.45	Opening address	<b>Leslie Morphy</b> Chief Executive, Crisis
10.00	<b>An overview of the Work Programme</b> How it will work in practice and the implications for current provision and programmes	<b>Kirsty McHugh</b> Chief Executive, Employment Related Services Association
	<b>The Coalition Government and welfare reform</b> The main changes and how they will impact on vulnerable people	<b>Dave Simmonds</b> Chief Executive, Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion
11.00	Morning coffee	
11.30	<b>Keynote speech:</b> <b>Where next for welfare reform?</b>	<b>Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP</b> Minister for Employment
12.00	Workshops	
13.00	Lunch	
13.45	Workshops	
14.45	<b>Welfare and work:</b> <b>the Opposition's perspective</b>	<b>Karen Buck MP</b> Shadow Minister for Welfare Reform
15.25	Afternoon tea	
15.50	<b>Any Questions</b> Hear from the experts on what the future holds for homeless people amidst changes to service provision and a radical shake up of the welfare system	<b>Duncan Shrubsole, Chair</b> Director of Policy and External Affairs, Crisis <b>Dame Anne Begg MP</b> Chair of Work and Pensions Select Committee <b>Keith Faulkner CBE</b> Chairman, Working Links <b>Roger Wilshaw</b> Deputy Director for Homelessness and Supporting People, DCLG
16.50	Closing remarks	
17.00	Close	

# WORKSHOPS

## MORNING SESSION

### 1. Opening doors to ex-offenders

#### **Unlock Your Potential and Prisoners Abroad**

This session will look at the challenges in supporting this group into employment. We will also discuss the unique and complex issues for prisoners returning to the UK from their overseas sentence.

### 2. The Work Programme and the homelessness sector

#### **Crisis Welfare Network (WILLOW) and St Mungos**

This session will investigate whether the Work Programme will support homeless people into work and consider what challenges the programme presents for the voluntary sector.

### 3. Does Social Enterprise work?

#### **Ethical Enterprise and Employment Network, Connection Crew and Bike Works**

The idea of using social enterprise projects to help vulnerable people into work has been an increasing trend over the past few years. But with funding opportunities decreasing, are social enterprise models in the sector enterprising enough to continue?

### 4. Central and Eastern Europeans: where next?

#### **The Oak Project and Barka**

We will be looking at good practice in supporting Central and Eastern Europeans into employment as well as the recent lifting of restrictions to some welfare benefits. What are the new opportunities and challenges they will bring?

## AFTERNOON SESSION

### 5. Removing the barriers to skills training

#### **Crisis Skylight Birmingham and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills**

This session shares the experiences of the Birmingham Skylight model of provision, Crisis' outreach service, and explores how vulnerable adults can access skills training amidst cuts to education budgets.

### 6. Coping with cuts in the private rented sector

#### **Private Renting and Housing Development team**

This session will explore how the benefit cuts and wider changes will affect people trying to find and maintain accommodation in the private rented sector and how service providers can mitigate some of the negative impact.

### 7. Supporting clients through the Work Capability Assessment

#### **Crisis Welfare Network and the Department for Work and Pensions**

This session looks at how people undertaking a Work Capability Assessment should be supported to ensure they end up getting both the right benefits and help towards gaining employment.

### 8. Coaching into employment

#### **Crisis Coaching Team and Prof Leroy White, University of Bristol**

Coaching is highly aspirational and enables clients to identify and work towards their goals. We discuss this model as well as looking at the unique In Work Staying Better Off programme, introduced to support homeless individuals with the challenges of gaining, and crucially, maintaining employment.