**All Party Parliamentary Group on Ending Homelessness**

**Officers Meeting Minutes**

28 June 2016, 12.00-13.00, Portcullis House, Room U

**Attendees:**

**Apologies:**

David Burrowes MP, APPG Secretary

Dr Paul Monaghan MP, Vice-chair

Neil Coyle MP, APPG Treasurer

Michael Tomlinson MP, APPG Officer

David Mackintosh, Chairman

Will Quince MP, APPG Officer

Bob Blackman MP

Richard Benyon MP

Jim Shannon MP

Sir George Young

**Other:**

Mick Clarke, The Passage

Matthew Oliver, NLA

Cat Glew, St Mungo’s

Christoph Warrack, Open Cinema

Kate Earnshaw, Emmaus UK

Marc Francis, Z2K

**Parliamentary Assistants:**

Ryan Baldry, Office of David Mackintosh MP

Simon Gibson, Office of Michael Tomlinson MP

Renee Cunningham, Office of Peter Aldous MP

Gareth Russell, Office of Flick Drummond MP

**Secretariat:**

Matt Downie, Secretariat to APPG

Rachel Greaves Secretariat to APPG

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Welcome and apologies** | |
| **Reflection on Jo Cox MP** | |
| Overview | David Mackintosh MP (DM) spoke movingly about Jo Cox MP and about her involvement in setting up the group and had many exciting ideas for its future. David then requested all attendees to stand in silent reflection for two minutes. |
| Key discussion points |  |
| Actions and deadlines |  |
| **Update on homelessness legislation** | |
| Overview | Matt Downie (gave an update on the work Crisis has been doing in the past year to try and change the current homelessness legislation. This year Crisis published a report, by an independent panel of experts from across the sector which looked at sensible solutions within the English context. The panel report included legislation written by a lawyer and has been fully costed.  Bob Blackman MP (BB) then announced he would be taking forward this bill as Private Members Bill, called, the ‘Homelessness Reduction Bill’. It would be the first bill to complement a select committee enquiry findings and it will improve services and deliver wider prevention. The bill will have a lot of content as it includes robust policy change but the clerks are behind the bill and will support with legalese and technicalities. |
| Key discussion points | * LHA Caps * Supported housing * The ‘Finish Process’ * The Northern Irish framework |
| Actions and deadlines | * **ALL** to email their sponsorship support by **COP 28 June 2016** * **ALL** to offer BB opinions for second reading by **COP 28 June 2016** * **DM** to ensure all members of APPGEH attend second reading * **ALL** to speak to supporters about the bill * **MD** to coordinate with **The Passage** regarding the rough sleeping registry week in Westminster * **DM** to ensure the APPGEH members to support bill throughout |
| **Discussion on work plan** | |
| Overview | MD then updated the group on its policy direction. It has been agreed that the group will only work on areas which aren’t already being covered in order for the group to be impactful and not recreate others work. The group’s overall aim is for **homelessness to be rare, brief and non-recurrent**. The first year of work will be focussed on Prevention and we will have four meetings on four specific policy areas within that.  MD said how the secretariat had looked at identifying policy gaps in homelessness prevention and found there were not enough policy recommendations in certain areas. This research was discussed internally in Crisis and then individually with the APPGEH’s steering group members.  The four areas which were agreed are **early years, health, leaving care and leaving prison**. The group will produce an interim report after each quarterly enquiry session and an annual report which will capture all these areas. |
| Key discussion points | * Homeless armed forces * Temporary accommodation * People trafficking * Private rented sector * ‘Ban the Box’ campaign |
| Actions and deadlines | * **DM** to look into showing in a CLG Select Committee Homelessness Enquiry video in Parliament * **Secretariat** to send all documents to Will Quince and Richard Benyon * **ALL** signed off work plan |
| **AOB** | |
| Overview | Chair called for AOB |
| Key discussion points | * CHAIN rough sleeping stats would be released 29 June 2016. |
| Actions and deadlines |  |