How to run 'Have Your Say' stage.3 workshops with people with lived experience of homelessness

This is a short guide on how to use Crisis' online 'Have Your Say' platform to let us know what homeless people think about our policy proposals and what our priorities should be.

Thank you for enabling people with lived experience of homelessness to take part in the final stage of the 'Have Your Say' consultation, which will help refine the policy content of Crisis' plan to end homelessness and set our strategic priorities in the months and years to come. It's important to us that the voice of lived experience is at the heart of the campaigning and influencing work we do.

Running a workshop

There are no set rules about running a successful Have Your Say workshop with people with lived experience, and this is just a suggested framework to structure discussion and help participants weigh their options before deciding. Use it, adapt it or change it to suit the groups you are working with.

We suggest you allow up to 2 hours for the session, to enable some discussion of the key policy areas to enable participants to make a reasoned judgement. As time is tight you may wish to split larger groups into smaller ones to give more people a chance to discuss.

What will you need?

- As many laptops, PCs or tablets as you can get for the session.
- Internet connectivity.
- Flip chart paper, pens, post-its etc. so that the group can make notes to refer back to.
- A voting mechanism if you are making collective choices.

Introducing the session:

The **Have Your Say online page (https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/a-plan-to-end-homelessness/have-your-say/)** has a short video blog from our Head of Research, Francesca Albanese explaining the consultation so far and how it feeds in to the plan to end homelessness. This is the ideal way to set your session up.

Explain to participants that the aims of the session are:

- To develop an understanding of the key themes of the policy priorities.
- To understand what sort of specific policies they might cover.
- To work out the impact each policy priority might have in ending homelessness.
- To vote on how important they think each policy priority is.

Using the online platform:

After you've watched the video, choose your nation from the dropdown link below.

The platform is in two parts. The first page you see gives access to the extensive list of the most detailed policy recommendations. There are many of these and some might possibly require some policy knowledge. They are therefore probably not suitable for a workshop format.

There is also a link to our **key policy areas** and an opportunity to help us decide which are the most important. We know that this works well for discussion and the prioritisation option allows participants to influence Crisis' strategic priorities in the months and years to come.

Follow the link to '**Vote on our key policy areas**' and you will see the list of the key policy priorities for ending homelessness.

For more information on these, visit our **Q&A page** (https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/a-plan-to-end-homelessness/have-your-say/consultation-faqs/).

You can then simply drag and drop the key policy areas into the order that you think are most important and click the submit button.

If participants wish to use some of their own time to comment on the more detailed policy solutions you may need to give them access to your generic email address if they don't have one of their own, or find a different way of sending in feedback. They can follow the instructions on the webpage.

Analysing the key policy areas

As there are several policy priorities to consider, even 2 hours gives limited time for discussion of each area.

Use the bullet points from the Q&A page to explore the specifics behind the key policy areas and spend a couple of minutes getting clear that participants understand what they mean.

You can then use the following questions to structure a discussion which will help participants decide how important they think each policy priority is, in terms of its impact on the aim of ending homelessness.

1. What are the good things about the recommendation and why?
   Try to identify 2 or 3 key positive aspects – you might want to collect these on post-it notes, but try to allow some discussion.

2. What could be improved about the recommendation?
   Try to identify 2 or 3 areas that could be improved to make the recommendation work better

3. How would it change what is currently happening?
   Would it have a large or small effect on homelessness?

4. Who do you think this idea could most help?
   Does it reach a particularly vulnerable group? Does it help a small or large number of people?

Ranking the policy priorities

If each participant has access to a PC or laptop they can rank the policy priorities as they go along by dragging and dropping them in the order they think most appropriate.

If you are working in groups around a device, you may have to have a voting procedure to reach a group conclusion, or you may prefer to allow each participant to take turns at putting the policy priorities in order and submitting their own choices. These options obviously add to the time required, or deduce the time available for discussion.