

All Party Parliamentary Group on Ending Homelessness



Launch of Housing First enquiry

Meeting Minutes

5 October 2020, 3.30-5pm, Zoom

Attendees:

Neil Coyle MP, APPG Co-Chair
Baroness Meacher
Baroness Healey
Ben Everitt MP
Sally-Ann Hart MP
Beth Winter MP
Baroness Grender
James Sunderland MP
Baroness Bennett
Adam Holloway MP
Lord Young of Cookham
Baroness Walmsley
Baroness Greengross
Lord Shipley
Lord Bishop of Rochester
Baroness Watkins
Shaun Bailey MP

Parliamentary staff:

Graeme Smith, Office of Neil Coyle MP
Noorjahan Khanam, Office of Sam Tarry MP
Ryan Pratt, Office of Lord Taylor
Jacqui Connor, Office of John McDonnell MP
Greg Sporstons, Office of Beth Winter MP
Anjalib Jashani, Office of Helen Hayes MP

Secretariat:

Emily Batchelor, Secretariat to APPG

Other:

Jasmine Basran, Crisis
Ruth Jacob, Crisis
Maeve McGoldrick, Crisis
Saskia Neibig, Crisis
Hannah Slater, Crisis
Alex De'Ath, Crisis
Chris Hancock, Crisis
Kate Farrell, Crisis
Sarah Walters, Crisis
Erika Moisl, Crisis
Cllr Helen Dennis, Southwark Council
Hugh Currie, St. Mungo's

Apologies:

Stephen Timms MP
Clive Lewis MP
Maria Miller MP
Pat McFadden MP
Andy Carter MP
Ian Byrne MP
Caroline Lucas MP
Debbie Abrahams MP
Lord Best
Baroness Cox
Baroness Hamwee
Lord McNally
Lord Puttnam
Baroness Hogdson of Abinger
Baroness Lister of Burtersett
Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

Panellists:

Dr Sam Tsemberis, Pathways to Housing
Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
Matt Downie, Crisis
Trina, Crisis client
Maggie Brünjes, Homeless Network Scotland

Deb Garvie, Shelter
Andrew MacKinnon, Rock Trust
Esme Davies, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Anna Watchman, St. Mungo's
Anna Yassin, Glass Door
Liz Garratt, Sheffield University
Lucy Robson, Oak Foundation
Octavia Aronne, Safer London
Ally Routledge, NHF
Katie Earnshaw, Emmaus UK
Claire Wilson-Leary, Dogs Trust
Saranya Kogulathas, Standing Together
Suzannah Young, NHF
Collette Wells, Porchlight
Vicky Ball, Phoenix Futures
Sarah Rowe, Centre for Social Justice/Crisis
Steph Kleynhans, Shelter
Eloise Di'Gianni, Just for Kids
Paul Prosser, Noah Enterprise
Natasha Gray, My Bnk
Chris Burgess, Porchlight
Clive Chapman, CSAN
Andrea Gilbert, Labour Homelessness Campaign
Paul Anders, PHE
Jo Bhandal, AKT
Emma Cookson, St. Mungo's
Rachel Lane, SCT
Jim O'Connor, Noah Enterprise
Michelle Langan, The Paper Cut Project
Jennie Corbett, Homeless Link
Holly Tippett-Simpson, Salvation Army
James Boulton, WWNS
Andrea Faulkner, TCC
Midori Hol, the Passage
Sarah Collett, Two Saints
Vic Stirling, SYHA
Neil Preddy
Carla Reeson, University of Nottingham
Jim McCaffrey, SOHA
Robin Tyne, Southwark Council
Alistair MacDermid, Rock Trust
Gary Neil, Rock Trust
Mike Hughes, Greater Manchester Housing First
Emily Cole, Greater Manchester Housing First
Amanda Bloxsome, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Victoria Kell, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Clare Barber, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Dominic Coleman, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Neelam Sunder, WMCA
Rachel Manning
Chris Coffey, Porchlight
Signe Gosmann, Just Life
David Paylor, Just Life
Catherine Little, Broadland Group
Sean Mullen, Revolving Doors
Helen Carlin, Rowan Alba Limited
Jackie MacKinnon, Housing First Edinburgh
James Found, Shelter

Welcome and apologies	
Introductions	
Neil Coyle MP	<p>Neil Coyle MP (NC) opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and briefly outlining the event format.</p> <p>NC made some opening remarks on the Housing First enquiry, including comments on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The enquiry aims to conclude and publish a report by May 2021 - The three Government-funded pilots of Housing First in the Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands - The call from across the homelessness sector to extend the roll out of Housing First across England <p>NC then passed onto Crisis' Director of Policy and External Affairs Matt Downie (MD).</p>
Matt Downie, Director of Policy and External Affairs, Crisis	<p>MD said that this was an unusual enquiry and that the steering group which sits behind the APPG had a thorough debate on the purpose of it.</p> <p>MD said the evidence of Housing First as a solution to ending homelessness was strong and compelling and that the enquiry would focus on how it could reach its potential.</p> <p>MD explained the current delivery of Housing First is nowhere near the scale which is needed.</p> <p>MD also said the enquiry would look at how the philosophy of Housing First would influence the wider solutions to ending homelessness.</p> <p>MD outlined how the HF pilots are due to end in the next year or so, and that the Conservative manifesto committed to exploring the expansion of HF across England</p> <p>MD said there will be four sessions, including this one, a call for written evidence and some dedicated sessions for people with lived experience.</p>
Dr Sam Tsemberis, Pathways to Housing	<p>NC introduced the next panellist Dr Sam Tsemberis (ST), founder of the original Housing First model. His comments were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The successful implementation of HF requires a partnership at every level of government. - Fundamentally HF is a system-disrupting intervention, it requires an industrial change to the homelessness system. - There is a long tradition of making homelessness services not too easily available, and improving people's wellbeing in order to get people 'housing ready' - HF is known as an ending homelessness intervention, but was set up originally as a recovery programme - The HF programme starts with housing but then health and recovery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health services must be fully integrated within the HF programme and be community-based - Housing must be available but also modified to ensure that people who need it can access it immediately - We need to remember that those experiencing homelessness is not a fixed pool of people - The importance of investing properly in housing and prevention agendas for successful HF schemes, as seen in Scandinavian countries. - HF is most effectively operated at the municipal level but needs a buy-in of values and commitment over time nationally to ensure consistency in approach. - We have the solution to ending homelessness, it requires systems change but it is possible
<p>Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester</p>	<p>NC introduced the next panellist Andy Burnham (AB), Mayor of Greater Manchester.</p> <p>AB outlined how the HF pilot in Greater Manchester is an emerging success story.</p> <p>This pilot has 132 individuals who have been permanently housed, 73 of which have been in stable accommodation for over six months. The target by the end of the pilot is 400 people.</p> <p>AB described how when he was elected Mayor in 2017 he committed to ending rough sleeping and found that outreach teams couldn't access services they needed to.</p> <p>AB outlined the scheme 'A Bed Every Night,' which is influenced by Housing First principles.</p> <p>AB said that HF is a success but how we need to take the wider housing-first philosophy to give people a foundation in order for them to turn their life around. Health recovery only comes from this long term approach.</p> <p>AB concluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with the suggestion that the enquiry recommends that the pilot is made permanent with a consistent funding stream, - that during his time in Finland he saw a buy-in of the principles of HF nationally, which applied to all public services, - that there is a need for housing to be seen as human right.
<p>Maggie Brunjes, Chief Executive, Homelessness Network Scotland</p>	<p>NC passed the chair over to MD, who introduced the next panellist, Maggie Brunjes (MB).</p> <p>MB said that pilots provided the groundwork for the scaling up of HF in Scotland, which demonstrated success in local areas.</p> <p>MB said there was a good policy environment, with HF becoming a key national policy objective across national and local governments.</p> <p>MB outlined how the PathFinder is 18 months into delivering Housing First, launched in 5 Scottish cities, and the funding split between national, local government and charities.</p>

	<p>MB outlined the importance of understanding longer term health conditions of people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>MB described the takeaway learnings from the Pathfinder so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of partnerships - The importance of supporting these partnerships - Systems change – HF is an effective catalyst for broader changes - Making sure HF can be delivered in a real world context. - The centrality of giving people choice and control - The importance of continued training for staff - Cost of £9,500 per person per year. That HF is more cost-effective than the status quo. <p>MB outlined how there is national framework under development and consultation for the national scaling up of HF. Looking to the future, MB emphasises how this HF seen as a long term project with hundreds of stories of success from clients.</p>
<p>Trina, Crisis client and Alex De’Ath, Crisis caseworker</p>	<p>MD introduced the final panellist Trina (T), who is a Crisis client with lived experience of HF in London. Accompanying Trina on the call was Crisis caseworker Alex De’Ath (ADA).</p> <p>T said she was previously in and out of hostels which was unsuitable for her. She is now settled into a flat, with furniture. T said she was now genuinely quite happy and positive about her life. T said the help had been instant, and would give it 10 points out of 10, 11 if she could.</p> <p>ADA outlined how Trina had been with Crisis for about 10 months.</p> <p>T said the service was amazing and she wanted to make it work. T said she was previously in and out of hostels, with social and addiction problems. T said she was given a chance with her flat and she has been keeping up with what was expected of her, whereas before she was a failure, not living up to the requirements of housing.</p> <p>ADA said that there weren’t as many requirements with HF services and how the pace of services is tailored to her own comforts.</p> <p>T said it was amazing to have her independence back and have some control over her life, as being in a hostel, all control was taken out of her hands. She can now deal with her issues step by step. T praised her caseworkers, who have been a critical part of her development.</p> <p>ADA said T agreed with the points made by the panel today.</p>
<p>MD</p>	<p>MD thanked the panel for their contributions and opened the Q&A session.</p>
<p>Questions – 1:02</p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sally-Ann Hart (SAH) MP thanked T for her contribution and outlined her support for HF with wrap-around care afterwards. SAH asked how we can develop a long term prevention strategy, for example, vulnerable families,

looking at issues in childhood, to prevent someone's eventual homelessness?

AB said his initial focus on rough sleeping as Mayor meant that there wasn't enough attention paid to families in temporary accommodation. AB outlined how now there was a focus on trauma informed support, which would be best addressed as a public service reform in a joint approach. AB praised the approach of Shared Health, an organisation in Greater Manchester.

ST said graduating from HF programs is often when clients reconnect with people, replacing the role of their caseworkers. People rough sleeping are profoundly disconnected from support networks including families. Prevention would be an improvement, to modify systems to accommodate people rather than expelling them. ST said health and housing are inextricably connected and successful outcomes of HF schemes are dependent on this.

MB said there is a common criticism that HF gives people an unfair advantage over others. MB said instead that HF is fair, and addresses a lifetime of inequality. MB said HF prevents repeat homelessness.

2. Jennie Corbett (JC), from Homeless Link asked about the importance of health and social care collaboration for HF projects, and pointed out that in England, HF is seen as a homelessness intervention, and therefore subject to the instability of homelessness cuts and funding. JC said that at HL they support national accountability as part of an integrated health and homelessness strategy, at both national and local levels and how COVID-19 had changed this conversation.

AB said that as Health Secretary you can see numbers not names whereas as Mayor you can see names not numbers, and that devolution has something to offer in the homelessness context as the issue cuts across policy areas, including justice, work and pensions, health and social care. AB said you cannot solve it from Westminster, but with devolution you can build policy on names not numbers. AB said ending homelessness and HF is a massive question of public service reform, and bottom-up approach is needed.

3. MD asked what the political conditions are needed for the success and the promotion of HF

MB said better collaboration across health and social care, and housing, will help strategically and with delivery on the ground. Hard Edges research found that local authorities are left carrying the can for a series of missed opportunities.

ST said the theme of being a pilot and taking it to scale was clear. ST said there is a variation on how this is done, but scaling up requires national government funding. ST said with a person-centred approach you can see the success and then build upon that. ST said in when there were attempts to mainstream the HF pilot in Canada there were problems as housing ministries were provincial but health services national.

	ST said the question of how to bring health, housing and justice altogether and aligned was central to HF success. ST said that person-centred care is not a universal approach, and that there needs to be a shift in working practices.
AOB	
Overview	MD thanked panellists and attendees for attending.
Actions and deadlines	Secretariat to send around minutes to attendees and both Chairs.