



Minutes of All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ending Homelessness

Wednesday, 2nd September 2026, 14.00 - 15.30

Room P, Portcullis House

Meeting with the Supported Housing Advisory Panel

Attendees

Members:	Bob Blackman MP (Co-chair), David Smith (Officer)
Guests:	Sir David Pearson (Chair of the Supported Housing Advisory Panel, hereafter referred to as the panel), Charlotte Talbot (panel member), Pete Smith, (panel member),
Staff:	Matthew Goodwin-Freeman
Steering Group:	Chloe Fletcher (CIH), Alexandra Worrell (Homeless Link), Alessandra Sciarra (DePaul).
Secretariat:	Jasmine Basran (Crisis), Ben Ridley-Johnson (Crisis), Matt Bold (Crisis),

- **Bob Blackman MP** welcomed attendees and there was a round of introductions
- He raised the issue of the slow progress of the SHROA's implementation
- **Sir David** said that the panel were keen to act as quickly and effectively as possible in supporting the implementation of the Act
- Sir David gave a presentation on the panel, starting with the panel's work being aligned to its strategic objectives which are:

- The quality of the accommodation should be well managed and be of a good standard
 - Supported housing should deliver good quality support to vulnerable people which is suited to their individual needs
 - Supported Housing should deliver good value for money
 - Supported housing should be planned for and delivered through a coordinated approach involving health, social care, housing and planning authorities
 - The governments aim is for there to be an adequate supply of good quality supported housing for all those who need it, but in particular for older people and working age adults
 - Sir David referenced the debate around who supported housing is for, and models like Housing First.
- Sir David proceeded to outline the panel's functions, which are
 - Advise on the implementation of the Act
 - Provide intelligence on emerging issues in the sector
 - Support policy development
 - Produce outputs
 - An annual report
 - Advice papers on thematic notes
 - before the end of the Chairs tenure, undertake a review of the panels effectiveness in ensuring effective delivery of the Act and what further reforms will be required
- **Charlotte Talbot outlined Priority 1, which is Access and supply** with an initial priority of local supported housing strategies getting assessment right with an awareness of a potential variation on quality and depth of local supported strategies.
- Charlotte Talbot expanded on Priority 1 to add that it was about making sure that the system can deliver the supply that local strategies tell us is needed – inc. looking at issues including subsidy loss, the impact of the existing rent standard on supply, integrated commissioning and how we might bring valid revenue funding. She shared that in the panel's view the guidance for local supported housing strategies is broad and there is therefore a lot of room for variance/different interpretation.
- **Bob Blackman MP** asked about Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – whether this potentially needed some more guidance?

- **Peter Smith** said that he was aware that MHCLG had been discussing this point with LGR local authorities with the intention of taking this into account.
- **Sir David** that we might anticipate that there will be some variation in quality and maturity in strategies and an option might be that Local Authorities continue to improve their strategies after March 2027.
- **Sir David** continued with Initial Priority 2 which is **Licensing and Quality**, with an initial priority of Licensing Regulation, including the interface with other regulations and regulatory regimes. Some emerging issues:
 - Ability of LAs to recruit skilled teams to deliver licensing regimes
 - Clarity regarding definition of Care, Support and Supervision – he confirmed they are relooking at this question
 - Burden for Providers – ensuring the scheme is proportionate
- **Bob Blackman MP** raised the question of how care and support would be funded moving forward as one of critical importance.
- **Sir David** completely agreed this was a very important consideration.
- **Pete Smith** outlined the third of the panel's initial priorities, **Residents' Voice**, with which regard some emerging issues he named were:
 - Implementation of the SHROA is informed by Lived experience
 - People with lived experience understand their rights and the impact of changes
 - People with lived experience know how to access support/raise concerns
- **Pete Smith** added that he thinks the consultation work with residents so far has not been sufficient; he is therefore looking with Lived Experience panel members at how to do this, including other residents of Supported Housing.
- **Bob Blackman MP** raised what consultation of residents in exempt accommodation had taken place?
- **Pete Smith** said their intention was to do so, which Sir David underlined.
- **Sir David** outlined the fourth initial priority of the panel, which is '**The Birmingham Test**'. This included
 - work on issues facing Birmingham where there is a very high level of supported exempt accommodation

- Sir David outlined the panel's remaining initial priorities:
 - The Treasury Value for Money Review of homelessness (which includes supported housing) and **the next meeting of which is in September '26**
 - Review of data and information – including discussions about establishing a consistent framework for understanding performance and outcomes at a national and local level
 - Engagement with stakeholder, interested parties and those with expertise. We want to be transparent and accountable as well as gain evidence, expertise and views to inform our work
- **David Smith MP** thanked Sir David for the presentation and raised a number of points regarding the new administration's pledge on Rough Sleeping and its Rough Sleeping Programme. Chiefly, he urged in the strongest terms the panel to emphasise the support element to Government as being critical to the sustained success of the Rough Sleeping Programme, beyond Christmas.
- **Sir David** agreed and added that the sector should also make these points to Government.
- **Bob Blackman MP** made a point about capacity in relation to the new administration's Rough Sleeping Programme and the risk of people being housed in exempt accommodation and the loosening of planning permission.
- **Sir David** responded to say that he is aware of the issue and planning is an area being looked at by the panel.
- **Pete Smith** posed the question of what accommodation will be used for the new Rough Sleeping programme?
- **Jasmine Basran** asked the panel what they are thinking about the opportunity in local supported housing strategies to identify where people are ready to move on and where there is need for other types of housing, for example Housing First.
- **Sir David** indicated this would be added to the panel's areas of consideration
- **Jasmine Basran** asked about whether supported housing strategies will be used as evidence in the Treasury's Value for Money review? **Sir David** shared there had been conversations regarding the Review, but the work of the review seems to have been paused whilst new Ministers settle into their roles but are anticipating restarting

these conversations.

- **Chloe Fletcher** asked if the panel would make recommendations to the Government and local authorities about the risk of people becoming homeless when schemes close, due to failing to meet the licensing standards or otherwise in relation to the Act and how to mitigate that?
- **Sir David** said they will looking into this issue.
- **Alexandra Worrell** asked whether the panel is looking at protecting existing supply, around guidance from Government where Housing Benefit teams are stopping payments?
- **Charlotte Talbot and Pete Smith** said that they would look at this issue.
- **Bob Blackman MP** asked about the delay in implementation and how much this was leading to councils taking different approaches?
- **Sir David** acknowledged this issue
- **Ben Ridley-Johnson** asked whether the panel was considering the issue of unscrupulous exempt supported providers pivoting their business model into other models such as Temporary Accommodation, which is less well-regulated currently?
- **Sir David** acknowledged this as an issue for the panel to consider moving forward.
- **Ben Ridley-Johnson** secondly asked whether the panel would consider raising the opportunity presented by provider exit for suitable properties to be acquired by councils using grant funding to be converted to meet true housing need?
- **Bob Blackman MP** thanked the attendees and brought the meeting to a close.