

Homelessness Action Group
Friday 19 July 2019 10:30 – 13:30
Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Market Chambers, 5-7 St Mary Street, Cardiff, CF10 1AT

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees:

Jon Sparkes	Chief Executive, Crisis (Chair)
Katie Dalton	Director, Cymorth Cymru
John Puzey	Chief Executive, Shelter Cymru
Lindsay Cordery-Bruce	Chief Executive, The Wallich
Frances Beecher	Chief Executive, Llamau (from 12:10)
Bonnie Navarra	Lead Change Maker, Future Generations Office
Glynne Roberts	Programme Manager, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB
Clarissa Corbisiero	Director of Policy, Community Housing Cymru
Gaynor Toft	Corporate Manager, Housing, Ceredigion Council
Nick Morris	Policy & Communications Manager, Crisis
Emma Williams	Deputy Director, Housing Policy Division, Welsh Government
Mark Price	Project Lead & Group Secretariat, Welsh Government

Apologies:

Peter Mackie	Senior Lecturer, Cardiff University
Tamsin Stirling	Freelance Housing Expert
Naomi Alleyne	Director of Social Services & Housing, WLGA
Clare Budden	CEO, Clwyd Alyn Housing
Sarah Rhodes	Head of Homelessness, Welsh Government

JS welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Homelessness Action Group and apologies were noted.

Agenda Item 1 – Lived Experience

- JP gave an oral presentation to the group. He stated that the key elements for lived experience engagement are:
 - recruitment and support for peer researchers;
 - review and adapt survey questions from the Scottish survey;
 - develop and issue the on-line survey;
 - analyse data and report findings;
 - review existing literature and identify gaps;
 - adapt/co-develop existing events;
 - identify emerging themes;

- final report to peers on next steps.
- It was noted that the National Assembly for Wales' Equality, Local Government and Communities (ELGC) Committee are staging three events following the inquiry into rough sleeping in Wales. The Group agreed that it would be useful if JS & JP could attend these. EW agreed to enquire via the Committee Clerk and make an introduction. **Action – EW**
- There was a discussion about whether there needs to be a two phased approach for rough sleeper engagement, dependant on the ELGC Committee's approach. JS stated that he will advise on timetabling and that the pace of the rest of the work will work around it.
- A detailed timetable and resourcing plan will be produced for the peer research programme and work will commence as soon as possible. **Action - JP**

Agenda Item 2 – Related Welsh Government Initiatives

EW gave a powerpoint presentation – refer to slides. Key comments made by the group were:

- With regards to the Vagrancy Act, it might be possible to agree with the four police forces, via a MOU, not to use the Act as a tool in dealing with rough sleepers. EW agreed to make initial enquires. **Action – EW**
- Suggestion that engagement should be made with school nursing leads re safeguarding. EW agreed to pick this up as an action. **Action - EW**

Agenda Item 3 – Overarching framework of policies, approaches and plans

JS gave a powerpoint presentation – refer to slides. Key comments from the post presentation discussion were:

- This will be a set of principles that everything else sits within, under the “prevention” definition, framed and mainstreamed in that way to ensure everybody's understanding is the same.
- Need to ensure that the agreed WG definition of “prevention” is used consistently.
- The work needs to be able to be tracked back to an outcomes framework linked to WG policy objectives and underpinned by the Future Generations Act.
- Rather than only considering a psychologically informed workforce, we need to consider whole organisations and commissioning frameworks.
- There is WG work ongoing with regards to migrant workers housing needs and relevant support services with no recourse to public funds. EW will send a note of this to the group. **Action – EW**
- Rapid Housing should be considered the default for everyone who is experiencing homelessness or is at risk of homelessness, with Housing First being a specialist sub-set of this for people with more complex support needs.
- The group agreed that the workstream “no-one experiences homelessness more than once” will remain as a separate strand for now, although it was recognised that this might be achieved through implementing and embedding all other areas of the framework.

- Will consider where legislation is necessary, recognising that secondary legislation and statutory guidance will be easier to implement than primary legislation.
- There is a huge gap between allocations and housing planning. CHC are planning a piece of work around this from September and will link in with local government. **Action – CC, GT & NA**
- Level of what “affordability” means will be different for different age groups and the levels of their disposable income. There will be a need to analyse and define “affordability” in Wales, including consideration of tax and revenue implications.
- The group were asked to provide any additional comments to JS as soon as possible. **Action – All**
- The next iteration of this work will be produced taking on board all of the comments of the Group. **Action – JS/NM**

Agenda Item 4 – Reducing rough sleeping in the short term, and ending it altogether.

LCB gave a powerpoint presentation to the group and showed a “Safe Space” (5 minute) video. The group then noted the need to develop a plan for rough sleeping in Wales underpinned by a model based on a set of principles which can be applied across Wales. This group needs to consider what those principles will be, and what short and medium term action is required.

Agenda Item 5 – Stakeholder Communication

The meeting ran out of time before this agenda item was reached. CC & NM to have a separate post meeting discussion about frontline and stakeholder communication issues and a separate note will be circulated detailing this. **Action - NM**

Summary of Action Points

No.	Action	Lead
1	Introductory email to the Clerk of the National Assembly for Wales’ Equality, Local Government and Communities (ELGC) Committee.	EW
2	Detailed timetable and resourcing plan to be produced for the peer research programme.	JP
3	Initial enquiries with regards to use of the Vagrancy Act by the four police forces in Wales.	EW
4	Engagement with school nursing leads re safeguarding.	EW
5	Note about WG work regarding migrant workers housing needs and relevant support services.	EW
6	CHC’s planned work re allocations and housing planning to be expanded to include local government representation.	CC, GT, NA
7	Additional comments regarding JS’ presentation to be emailed to JS as soon as possible.	All
8	Next draft of the overarching framework of policies, approaches and plans workstrand.	JS, NM
9	Circulate frontline and stakeholder communication plan.	NM