

**Homelessness Action Group**  
**Friday 28 June 2019 10:00 – 13:00**  
**Development Bank of Wales Meeting Room 1, Cardiff**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Attendees:

Jon Sparkes	Chief Executive, Crisis (Chair)
Peter Mackie	Senior Lecturer, Cardiff University
Katie Dalton	Director, Cymorth Cymru
John Puzey	Chief Executive, Shelter Cymru
Tamsin Stirling	Freelance Housing Expert
Naomi Alleyne	Director of Social Services & Housing, WLGA
Lindsay Cordery-Bruce	Chief Executive, The Wallich
Frances Beecher	Chief Executive, Llamau (first hour of meeting)
Bonnie Navarra	Lead Change Maker, Future Generations Office
Glynne Roberts	Programme Manager, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB
Clare Budden	CEO, Clwyd Alyn Housing
Clarissa Corbisiero	Director of Policy, Community Housing Cymru
Nick Morris	Policy & Communications Manager, Crisis
Emma Williams	Deputy Director, Housing Policy Division, Welsh Government
Sarah Rhodes	Head of Homelessness, Welsh Government
Mark Price	Project Lead, Welsh Government

Apologies:

None to note

- JS welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting. He stated that everyone brings expertise and experience to these meetings and the group will aim to work at pace to deliver a series of recommendations within a report for the Minister for Housing & Local Government at the end of March 2020. JS stated that he plans to issue a blog of each meeting circa 24/48 hours after each meeting has concluded to ensure that pace and continuity is maintained and to engage with a wider stakeholder group than just those around the table.
- He reminded the group that there are four main questions that this group has been established to address:
  1. What framework of policies, approaches and plans is needed to end homelessness in Wales?
  2. What immediate actions can we take to reduce rough sleeping between now and the winter of 2019/20, and to end rough sleeping altogether?
  3. How do we put the delivery of rapid and permanent rehousing at the heart of preventing, tackling and ending homelessness?

4. How can we ensure joined-up local partnerships and plans are put in place to prevent, tackle and end homelessness throughout Wales?
- EW said that the Minister is passionate about seeing action on the ground and is up for being brave and bold. The Minister is looking for a short sharp strategy that clearly sets out what we are doing. EW said that although there is no dedicated WG budget specific to this working group, it may be possible to tap into some resources should this be required. EW added that homelessness is a public service and not solely a housing issue – Chief Exec’s of LHBs, PHBs and others will be asked to sign up.
  - She added that she can ask other directorates within WG (eg education, youth policies) to give a presentation to the group about their policy areas should that be relevant and useful. The group agreed that it would be useful to better understand the structures within WG & EW therefore agreed to give a half hour presentation to the group at the next meeting. **Action – EW**
  - The TOR for the group were agreed but it was also noted that they should also include being able to demonstrate and test innovation. The TOR document will be updated to reflect this. **Action – MP**
  - There was a group discussion about the name of the group and whether it should change, and what the hashtag should be. Post meeting note: the hashtag [#homelessnessactiongroup](#) has been used by JS in his first blog.
  - The group agreed to consider the first two questions together to begin with. A discussion followed, where the group agreed that:
    - we need to consider who else we need to be working with to credibly reflect the views of the lived experience element;
    - we also need a plan of engagement to capture frontline staff input dealing with homelessness;
    - also need to consider other relevant stakeholders (outside of housing) and a plan to have meaningful engagement and agreement with them;
    - secondly, we should engage with the leaders and decision makers who hold the “purse strings” (eg PHBs, LHBs) to influence them for when we get to the delivery stage;
    - need to map out exactly who we talk to and when (eg some people/groups will require more regular engagement and at different points of time in the project).
  - A sub-group consisting of LC, FB & KD will consider these issues and present initial findings/research to the next Action Group meeting. **Action – LC, FB & KD (subgroup 1)**
  - The group noted that there is existing evidence and intelligence (eg Shelter Cymru research) which can be utilised to help our understanding and engagement. A sub-group will consider and map all pre-existing evidence to ensure we do not repeat existing research, including how we use pre-existing material and then identify the gaps, to draft a “starter for ten” framework in readiness for the next meeting. Building on from PM’s presentation, the sub-group

will also consider how we can better analyse repeat homelessness data to understand our baseline and also include other data sources as applicable eg prison data; and consideration of the powers and levers we already have that can be used for homelessness provision and map these against what is non devolved

**Action – JS, PM & TS (subgroup 2)**

- With regards to question 2 specifically, the group noted that there will be a need to commission long term solutions to ending homelessness and also trauma informed provision (including where the current accommodation provision is located at the moment) and what that looks like. There will be separate actions required to ensure that short term solutions are in place to reduce rough sleeping this winter, which will act as a stepping stone towards longer term solutions.
- With regards to the definition of reducing rough sleeping by this winter, the group will consider “a bed for the night” and also “off the streets in the day” strategies concurrently.
- There was agreement to publish the work of the Action Group on the WG website to ensure all stakeholders are fully informed and engaged as this work progresses. WG will look into the best way to deliver this. **Action – MP**
- There was also discussion about how this Group can best share documentation and be more electronically joined up (eg be using an electronic records management system). WG will also consider this. **Action – MP**
- JS confirmed that he will blog after each meeting and other members were asked to use their own social media platforms to cascade a clear and consistent message (following JS’ blog). **Action – All**
- Initial findings/research will be cascaded to all members prior to the next meeting [of 19 July] to enable all members to have the opportunity to have read and considered and be ready to comment at the next meeting. Both subgroups to forward relevant papers to MP to send out ahead of the next meeting. **Action – Subgroup 1, Subgroup 2**

**Summary of Action Points**

No.	Action	Lead
1	Presentation about the structures within WG (half hour) at the next meeting	EW
2	Update TOR document to include the need to demonstrate and test innovation	MP
3	Subgroup 1 to present initial findings at the next meeting	Subgroup 1 - LC, FB & KD
4	Subgroup 2 to present initial findings at the next meeting	Subgroup 2 – JS, PM & TS
5	Investigate WG website area to publicise the work of the group	MP
6	Investigate how the group can better share information and	MP

	be more electronically joined up	
7	Following JS' post-meeting blog, other members to use their own social media platforms to cascade a clear and consistent message	All
8	Subgroups 1 & 2 to forward initial findings papers to MP to cascade to group members (with agenda etc documents) in advance of the next meeting date	Subgroup 1 Subgroup 2