

Homelessness Action Group
Thursday 30 January 2020 10:30 – 13:30

Mid Wales Housing Association, Ty Canol House, Ffordd Croesawdy, Newtown, SY16 1AL

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees:

Jon Sparkes	Chief Executive, Crisis (Chair)
Katie Dalton	Director, Cymorth Cymru
Peter Mackie	Reader, Cardiff University
Naomi Alleyne	Director of Social Services & Housing, WLGA
Glynne Roberts	Programme Manager, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB
Gaynor Toft	Corporate Manager, Housing, Ceredigion Council
Lindsay Cordery-Bruce	Chief Executive, The Wallich
Clarissa Corbisiero	Director of Policy, Community Housing Cymru
Tamsin Stirling	Freelance Housing Expert
John Puzey	Chief Executive, Shelter Cymru
Bonnie Navarra	Lead Change Maker, Future Generations Office
Frances Beecher	Chief Executive, Llamau
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 & Group Secretariat, Welsh Government

Apologies:

Clare Budden	CEO, Clwyd Alyn Housing
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JS welcomed everyone to the eighth meeting of the Homelessness Action Group and apologies were noted.

The purpose of this meeting was to consider the draft report setting out the recommendations for question one – the overall framework of policies and approaches to end homelessness.

The existing draft report was considered in terms of whether the recommendations need to be revised, amended or strengthened. The group also considered: prioritising the recommendations into either short, medium and long term aims, or pace of delivery; strengthening the introduction section; adding further detail about the Welsh Government's existing welfare powers; adding further detail about cultural change and extending public service prevention activity from the statutory 56-day point; the

(financial) scale of the investment needed; more emphasis on early intervention & prevention; requirement for accountability against delivery on ending homelessness.

The report will also consider how a faster response time could be considered by health care professionals in instances for when people are unwell (ie mental health issues) to avoid evicting into homelessness, and that pathways are fully considered and necessary interventions referenced (ie for prison leavers, care leavers).

It was agreed that some of the recommendations will specify the mechanism or delivery vehicle required to implement the recommendation, whilst others may need to state that a mechanism will need to be found.

Following the group discussion, where the Group agreed a consensus on the drafting of the recommendations, the next stage is that the report will be completed and presented to the Minister for Housing & Local Government in February but will still be considered to be a draft report until the lived experience work has been completed and added. The lived experience workshops will be completed by mid to late February.

Mark Price
Housing Policy Division
Welsh Government