

Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar:

Next steps for tackling housing insecurity, homelessness and rough sleeping in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday 14th January 2025

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Bob Blackman MP, Co-Chair, APPG for Ending Homelessness
- 9.05 **The effectiveness of government in tackling homelessness - key findings**
Vicky Davis, Director, Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Assessing current trends in housing insecurity and homelessness and what is needed from policy going forward**
Rick Henderson, CEO, Homeless Link
- 9.35 **Stakeholder perspectives on policy priorities, what is needed from the Renters' Rights Bill and future legislation**
priorities for tackling private rented sector insecurity | roles and responsibilities of local government and the charity, health and housing sectors going forward | the likely impact of proposals to end Section 21 'no fault' evictions | delivering housebuilding and social housing targets | assessing funding for the Affordable Homes Programme | application and impact of the Housing First fidelity framework
Helen Watson, Chief Executive, RentStart
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, health
Senior representative, temporary housing provider
Senior representative, construction
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Bob Blackman MP, Co-Chair, APPG for Ending Homelessness
- 10.25 Break
- 10.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 **Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping - regional case studies**
Councillor Allan Casey, City Convener, Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services, Glasgow City Council
Joe Donohue, Strategic Lead, Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Migration, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Improving collaboration between local and national government**
regionally-targeted measures | addressing funding pressures and sustainability for local homelessness services | assessing funding required for councils to provide necessary services | enforcing Awaab's Law and other protective measures | clarifying funding arrangements | regional data-sharing for coordinated homelessness interventions | improving the provision of temporary accommodation services for both local authorities and charities
Councillor Liza Begum, Cabinet Member, Housing Services, Westminster City Council
Emma Haddad, Chief Executive, St Mungo's
Liz Davies KC, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Priorities for reducing long-term homelessness amongst vulnerable groups**
assessing how additional funding announced in the Autumn Budget can best be utilised | considering how to make temporary accommodation safe and appropriate to users' needs | tackling the determinants of homelessness | strategies for improving access to support services for those living in temporary accommodation | homelessness recovery | addressing educational barriers for homeless individuals | enhancing education and training for frontline staff and service providers | assessing health impact of homelessness and rough sleeping | strategies to prevent young people from entering long-term homelessness | considering drug diversion programs and community-based interventions | prioritising harm reduction for homeless communities
Professor Nick Maguire, Director, Centre for Homelessness Research and Practice
Sam Pratt, Policy and Communications Lead, Shared Health Foundation
Senior representative, prisons
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, asylum protection
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities going forward**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Social Policy Forum