

# All Party Parliamentary Group on Ending Homelessness



## Annual General Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

17 May 2021, 10-10.45am, Zoom

#### **Attendees:**

Bob Blackman MP, APPG Co-Chair  
Lord Best  
Ian Byrne MP  
Jason McCartney MP  
Ben Everitt MP  
Stephen Timms MP  
Baroness Healy of Primrose Hill  
Sally-Ann Hart MP  
James Wild MP  
Mike Wood MP

#### **Parliamentary staff:**

Evie Lingwood, Office of Neil Coyle MP  
Henry Cavill, Office of Nickie Aiken MP  
Joe, Office of Marsha de Cordova MP  
Melissa Whitelaw, Office of Kate Osborne MP

#### **Secretariat:**

Emily Batchelor, Secretariat to APPG

#### **Other:**

Maeve McGoldrick, Crisis  
Matt Downie, Crisis  
Saskia Neibig, Crisis  
Ruth Jacob, Crisis  
Stella Tsantekidou, Crisis

<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	
Bob Blackman MP	Bob Blackman MP (BB) opened the AGM by introducing himself, welcoming attendees and briefly outlining the AGM format.
<b>Election of Chair and Co-Chair</b>	
Overview	<p>Stephen Timms MP (ST) nominated BB for re-election as Co-Chair of the APPG, with Baroness Healey of Richmond Hill (AH) seconding the nomination. All parliamentary members present agreed that Bob should be re-elected as Co-Chair.</p> <p>BB nominated Neil Coyle MP as Co-Chair, with Ben Everitt MP (BE) seconding the nomination. All parliamentary members present agreed that Neil should be re-elected as Co-Chair.</p>
Action	Secretariat to note election of Bob Blackman MP and Neil Coyle MP as Co-Chairs.
<b>Election of Vice-Chairs</b>	
Overview	<p>BB noted that MPs seeking re-election as Vice-Chairs of the group included: Stephens Timms MP, Nickie Aiken MP, Ben Everitt MP and Jason McCartney MP. It was agreed that all should be re-elected as Vice-Chairs.</p> <p>Ian Byrne MP, Sally-Ann Hart MP, Baroness Healey of Richmond Hill, Lord Best were also nominated and elected as Vice-Chairs of the Group.</p>
Action	Secretariat to note election result
<b>Secretariat appointment</b>	
Overview	It was agreed that Crisis would continue providing Secretariat to the APPG.
Bob Blackman MP	<p>BB then outlined the achievement of the APPG through the A Safe Home campaign, and the amendment to the Domestic Abuse Bill which gives survivors of domestic abuse automatic priority need status when applying for housing assistance from their local authority.</p> <p>BB also outlined that the APPG held an emergency event in October 2020 on a winter homelessness crisis, and had an upcoming event on the impact of homelessness on children.</p>
Emily Batchelor, APPGEH Secretariat	<p>Emily Batchelor (EB) outlined how the APPG has a Steering Group made up of several organisations in the homelessness sector. The Steering Group was consulted on potential ideas for stand-alone events for the year ahead.</p> <p>EB listed these suggestions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An event or event series on homelessness and equality, diversity and inclusion</li> <li>- An event on the 'Lessons from Everyone In'</li> <li>- An event on the impact of requirements of photo ID on homeless people</li> <li>- An event on how the Government can make sure it meets its rough sleeping manifesto commitment</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An event or event series on immigration and homelessness</li> </ul>
Bob Blackman MP	<p>BB asked for attendee thoughts on these suggestions:</p> <p>SAH suggested the APPGEH looked at the work of Homeless Link who have set up a homeless forum across East Sussex, which encourages local organisations to work with local councils on efforts to prevent and tackle homelessness.</p> <p>BB thanked SAH for her suggestion. EB/Secretariat to look into the work of Homeless Link in this area.</p>
Matt Downie, Crisis	<p>BB asked Matt Downie (MD) to make his remarks.</p> <p>MD comments included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The achievements of the Co-Chairs in succeeding in getting the Domestic Abuse Bill amended</li> <li>- The impact of the pandemic on homelessness</li> <li>- The progress made under the Everyone In initiative</li> <li>- The lack of adequate treatment and support for people who are homeless and with complex needs</li> <li>- The commitment of the Government in their manifesto to expand Housing First services</li> </ul>
Bob Blackman MP	<p>BB made comments on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The end of the eviction ban</li> <li>- The lack of accurate data around homelessness</li> <li>- The upcoming legislation which is looking to abolish section 21 evictions</li> </ul> <p>On Housing First Bob made comments including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing First is the right way forward for people with multiple needs or substance addiction</li> <li>- The inquiry of the APPGEH with the launch of the report occurring before the summer recess</li> <li>- The upcoming spending review, with a focus on the ensuring the three city-region Housing First pilots continue, and expanding provision of services to regions with high numbers of need</li> </ul> <p>Lord Best made comments on the growth of people in rent arrears, and existing problems with the private rented sector.</p> <p>BB made comments on the need to build more affordable housing.</p>
Bob Blackman MP	<p>BB thanked everyone for attending, and thanked Crisis for providing Secretariat.</p>
Actions and deadlines	<p>Secretariat to register AGM result, and send around minutes to attendees and Co-Chairs.</p>