

**Westminster Social Policy Forum Keynote Seminar**  
**Next steps for tackling homelessness: resources, policy priorities and challenges for implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Agenda subject to change



- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP**, former Chief Secretary to the Treasury
- 9.05 - 9.30 **The vision for homelessness reduction**  
**Bob Blackman MP**, Sponsor, Homelessness Reduction Act  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 9.45 **Use of resources to prevent and reduce homelessness - key findings from the NAO**  
**Aileen Murphie**, Director, Department for Communities and Local Government & Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office
- 9.45 - 10.00 **Early lessons for implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act**  
**Councillor Stephanie Cryan**, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Southwark Council
- 10.00 - 10.40 **Challenges for implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act: funding, partnerships and data collection**  
*With the Homelessness Reduction Act giving local authorities statutory duties to prevent and reduce homelessness from April 2018, how are councils preparing and what more needs to be done to address key issues for implementation, such as ensuring adequate resources are allocated to meet new legal responsibilities? What are the early indications for the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant in giving councils greater freedom to support a wider range of preventative services? In addition to Government's 'new burdens' funding outlined by the Minister for Local Government as well as plans to introduce a new approach to funding supported housing, what other options should be considered to support implementation of the Act? What impact will the Act have on local authority housing companies between councils, housing associations, investors and other developers? How should data collection be changed so that the Government and local authorities can monitor the operation and outcomes of preventative measures and interventions as part of new duties?*  
**Liz Davies**, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers  
**Heather Wood**, Interim Assistant Director of Housing (Statutory and Strategic Services), South Cambridgeshire District Council  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Aileen Murphie**, Director, Department for Communities and Local Government & Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office and **Councillor Stephanie Cryan**, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Southwark Council
- 10.40 - 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP**, former Chief Secretary to the Treasury
- 10.45 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Aileen Murphie**, Director, Department for Communities and Local Government & Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office
- 11.20 - 11.40 **Duty to refer and coordinating with other public authorities**  
*With the Government expected to set out which public bodies will have a duty to refer anyone homeless or threatened with homelessness to local authorities, what more needs to be done to prepare for meeting new requirements?*  
**Dr Pippa Medcalf**, Acute Physician, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Lead for Homeless Health, Royal College of Physicians  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 - 12.10 **Further measures to prevent and reduce homelessness**  
**Innovative approaches to tackling rough sleeping**  
**Professor Jo Richardson**, Associate Dean and Professor of Housing and Social Research, De Montfort University  
**Key issues for the third sector in service delivery**  
**Deborah Garvie**, Policy Manager, Shelter  
**The developing role of the private rented sector: affordable rent, utilising empty homes and eviction advice**  
**Richard Lambert**, Chief Executive, National Landlords Association
- 12.10 - 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **The future for homelessness policy**  
**Val Keen**, Head of Implementation, Homelessness Reduction Act, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Aileen Murphie**, Director, Department for Communities and Local Government & Local Government Value for Money, National Audit Office  
**Sam Dolton**, Senior Producer, Westminster Social Policy Forum