

Westminster Social Policy Forum conference

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

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 17th November 2026

Taking Place Online

Draft agenda subject to change



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Current challenges and considerations for implementation of the Government's National Plan to End Homelessness**
Professor Nick Maguire, Director, Clinical Psychology, Centre for Homelessness Research and Practice, University of Southampton; and Director, OutcomeHome
- 9.15 **Priorities for reducing homelessness - assessing key challenges and measures in the National Plan**
prevention and early intervention | progress against national targets and priorities going forward | accountability arrangements | local homelessness action plans and outcome measurement | funding for local authorities and voluntary and community organisations | support to help people remain in their homes including those at risk of homelessness | welfare, income and employment support | implications of Youth Guarantee and Get Britain Working reforms | Child Poverty Strategy, Better Futures Fund and removal of the two-child limit | reform for Family Help and Family Hubs | Long-Term Rough Sleeping Innovation Programme
Jasmine Basran, Head, Policy and Campaigns, Crisis
Senior representative, advocacy
Senior representative, employment
Senior representative, local authority
- 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 **Strengthening co-ordination of homelessness services across local and city-region areas**
Katie Fleeman, Homelessness Commissioning and Contracts Lead, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Andrew Reece, Homelessness Systems and Data Lead, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 **Strategic delivery of affordable housing - next steps for the Social and Affordable Homes Programme**
Shahi Islam, Director, Affordable Housing, Homes England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.15 **Addressing housing needs and reducing rough sleeping - access, supply, standards and support**
delivery of the 10 year Social and Affordable Homes Programme | funding allocations, regional distribution and delivery models | housing need and local capacity | implications of the Renters' Rights Act 2025 | abolition of Section 21 and housing insecurity | Awaab's Law and the Decent Homes Standard | enforcement and regulatory oversight | access to safe and suitable housing | Housing First and other housing-led models | reducing reliance on temporary and emergency accommodation
Councillor Helen Whitehead, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member, Housing, Thanet District Council
Senior representative, housing association
Senior representative, charity
Senior representative, legal
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Delivering integrated support for vulnerable groups**
health impacts of homelessness and rough sleeping | preparations for the statutory Duty to Collaborate | co-ordination between the Home Office, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations | alignment with the VAWG strategy and child poverty ambitions | temporary accommodation standards and outcomes for children | ending routine use of B&B accommodation for families | older people and marginalised communities | Black homelessness and findings from the Women and Equalities Committee inquiry | approaches to preventing homelessness for people leaving prison, care, hospital or asylum accommodation | asylum decision-making and moving-on from Home Office accommodation
Kathryn Parsons, Public Affairs and Policy Manager, Solace Women's Aid
Senior representative, health
Senior representative, asylum
Senior representative, prisons
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities going forward for tackling homelessness in England**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum