



## Meeting Notes

*Date* Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

*Venue:* Friends House, London

*Present:* Ben Johnson, Watford Community Housing, Carol Carter, Origin Housing, Chris Hancock, Crisis, Ciara Devlin, Crisis, David Bogle, Hightown, David Lavarack, Peabody, Gillian Higginson, Grand Union Housing, Helena Evans, Brighter Futures, Ian Martin, Estuary, Jeremy Gray, Evolve Housing & Support, Katie Ayala, AVHT, Katie Lloyd, Tent & Dove, Luke Versteeg, English Rural, Martin Hancock, BCHA, Michael Newey, Broadland Group, Mike Andrews, NCHA, Nicola Emmett, Hightown, Rob Mills, Accent Group, Robert Clarke, Freebridge, Sara Woodhall, Accord Group, Stephanie Goad, MHS Homes, Sue Chalkley, Hastoe, Tony Stacey, South Yorkshire HA, Tracey Lees, Wandle

*Next meeting:* TBC

**30<sup>th</sup> April, Homes for Cathy conference, Mary Ward House, 7 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SN.** Tickets can be purchased here: <https://homesforcathyconference.eventbrite.co.uk>

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### **1. Homes for Cathy branding and website**

Nicola Emmett presented the new logo, brand guidance and shared details of the new look website.

If members would like to display the Homes for Cathy logo on their website, please contact [nicola.emmett@hightownha.org.uk](mailto:nicola.emmett@hightownha.org.uk) who can email it across.

### **2. Membership**

Membership currently stands at 71.

A list of all members can be seen on the website:

<http://www.homesforcathy.org.uk/partners/current-members.html>

### **3. Members conference with Crisis, 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017**

Feedback from members, is that it was a very useful session.

Crisis will be launching their Plan to End Homeless on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018, with a reveal of the plan happening at the Homes for Cathy conference on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Crisis confirmed that many Homes for Cathy members responded to their request for volunteers for their Rent Ready Pilot program.

It was noted that the shared housing model needs to have housing support attached.

Origin Housing have a case study to share on shared housing.

Going forwards, Crisis will have a price list for rolling out the tenancy training.

Tony Stacey offered to circulate the presentation from Sarah Rowe, Senior Policy Officer at Crisis, which looked at the decrease in social housing letting to homeless households. *[The presentation can be found [here](#)].*

David Bogle, added there is a lack of understanding around how many homeless people housing associations are actually housing. Tracey Lees agreed it is not clear but at a recent event Paul Doe quoted some statistics, which showed the percentage is much lower than people think (c.17%).

Regarding future workshops, Jeremy Gray said that it would be of interest to have an event which focusses on Housing First.

Mike Andrews, said there is some resistance from housing staff on Housing First but not as much from those working in Care & Support.

Sue Chalkley, wondered if the Homes for Cathy group could help inform housing managers and be the bridge on Housing First. It was agreed to explore running a workshop on Housing First.

#### **4. Homes for Cathy conference with Crisis, 30<sup>th</sup> April.**

David Bogle went through the agenda for the conference. We were still hoping to get the Minister, Heather Wheeler to speak.

Crisis would like members to help finesse the Action Plan and use the day to get feedback on it, challenge it or endorse it. The definition of ending homelessness that Crisis are using can be found here.

[https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/237589/aug\\_17\\_crisis\\_proposed\\_definition\\_ending\\_homelessness.pdf](https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/237589/aug_17_crisis_proposed_definition_ending_homelessness.pdf)

John Healey MP (Labour) has confirmed that he can speak in the afternoon.

Tickets are on sale via Eventbrite:

<https://homesforcathyconference.eventbrite.co.uk>

Paul Doe, Sue Chalkley, Michael Newey, the NHF and Rick Henderson from Homeless Link, will be invited to do a five minute pitch on their area of expertise.

Invitations have gone out to all Homes for Cathy members via email. Invitations to the conference can be extended to service users who have experienced homelessness or support agencies working with housing association and the homeless.

Sue Chalkley requested that we publicise the Homes for Cathy education pack at the conference or have printed copies available.

## 5. Rough Sleepers Task Force/NHF Task and Finish group

David Bogle had been asked to sit on the Recovery Task and Finish Group led by David Orr at the NHF.

David Bogle went through the Recovery Task and Finish Group presentation that had been made by David Orr to the main Rough Sleepers Task Force meeting. *[The presentation can be found [here](#)]*. It covered the scope of the group (Access, Support, Supply, Long-term strategy) and certain early proposals.

David confirmed that migrant homelessness is being looked at within the Access section. He also acknowledged that the group has been more city focused, in answer to Sue Chalkley's question about rural homelessness.

Final costed proposals from the Recovery T&F Group were due to be presented to the RS Task Force in June with Government announcements in July. The Government had pledged to half rough sleeping by 2022.

Ciara Devlin, Crisis, suggested that Scotland was making a lot of progress on rough sleeping and that Heather Wheeler MP had been there recently with Jon Sparkes.

Chris Hancock added there were encouraging signs including the level of funding for Housing First.

As a group, Homes for Cathy need to find the positive stories. Nicola Emmett, will ask members for these and circulate.

Chris Hancock, mentioned that Frameworks are doing a study on the public perception of homelessness, to help understand what the gaps are.

The Frameworks research can be found here. <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/services-and-interventions/finding-a-better-frame-how-to-create-more-effective-messages-on-homelessness-in-the-united-kingdom-2017/>

## 6. MHCLG meeting

David Bogle and Tracey Lees had attended a meeting at the DCLG with civil servants. It was clear that resources devoted to homelessness had been increased. The MDCLG officers were very interested in the idea of a housing association 'charter' on homelessness.

The MDCLG were focused on the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act, it was suggested at the moment the funding doesn't match the responsibilities for Local Authorities.

The Group discussed engagement with Local Authorities. It was suggest that it would be worth having someone from a Local Authority in the room, so we can hear what the challenges are.

Housing Associations should share stories on how we've helped people out of homelessness. Nicola Emmett to collate these.

Chris Hancock commented that once Crisis launch their Plan, they will be in discussion with local authorities. Crisis is helping a number of Local Authorities with their implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

Crisis have some regional events planned to launch their Plan. Details can be found here. <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/events/>

Tony Stacey, said that Right to Buy is still causing issues with Local Authorities. In July the South Yorkshire Housing Association will be holding an open house meeting where they will be sharing best practice. Nicola to share the invitation to the open house with the Homes for Cathy members.

## **7. RICS / LandAid**

Michael Newey led the updates. The RICS UK board has raised the profile of homelessness amongst members. They are raising money for Youth Homelessness and have set themselves a target £2.4m.

The funds go via LandAid, with LandAid providing grants to homeless charities. Efforts to persuade LandAid to fund some housing provisions were continuing.

## **8. Shelter**

Michael Newey report that Shelter were running a 'Big Conversation' on social and council housing and may require some help from Homes for Cathy with setting up some focus group. David Bogle / Nicola Emmett could contact members.

## **9. Next Steps**

David Bogle asked for suggestions on what Homes for Cathy should focus on next.

- The idea of a Homes for Cathy charter or code was well received. This could build on the Crisis Plan to end Homelessness and could be worked up after the conference on 30<sup>th</sup> April.
- Homelessness Reduction Act – how could HAs help Local Authorities
- Homes for Cathy should run a session at the NHF conference in Sept 2018
- A programme of workshops run regionally at Homes for Cathy members offices.
- To develop practical ideas to learn from each other
- Homes for Cathy should be the group that convinces other HAs that ending homelessness can be done
- Bring the other big HAs into the group
- Linking up with associations in NI, Wales and Scotland.

## **A.O.B.**

The Homes for Cathy strategy document can be found [here](#), for anyone who hasn't seen them. The stThey are also available on the website. [www.homesforcathy.org.uk](http://www.homesforcathy.org.uk)

Michael Newey asked if it's possible for us to have a screening of the film, Calling Home at the Homes for Cathy conference. Nicola to speak to Julie Rice to see if this is possible.

## **Links to presentation and documents**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TW9cuC6S7\\_0lgUn9ZvnlPyjxtTFexpY](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TW9cuC6S7_0lgUn9ZvnlPyjxtTFexpY)

- PowerPoint, Sarah Rowe Crisis, Innovating to increase housing supply for homeless people
- Homes for Cathy strategy document
- NHF – Recovery Task & Finish Group – Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel meeting slides

## **Links to Crisis information**

- **Frameworks research on public perceptions**

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/services-and-interventions/finding-a-better-frame-how-to-create-more-effective-messages-on-homelessness-in-the-united-kingdom-2017/>

- **Definition of ending homelessness (on which the plan to end homelessness will be based)**

[https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/237589/aug\\_17\\_crisis\\_proposed\\_definition\\_ending\\_homelessness.pdf](https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/237589/aug_17_crisis_proposed_definition_ending_homelessness.pdf)

- **Events in June**

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/events/>