

Advisory Panel Biographies

Jon Sparkes (CEO of Crisis)

- Jon Sparkes has been Chief Executive of Crisis since 2014.
- Previously he was Chief Operating Officer of UNICEF UK and Chief Executive of SCOPE.
- He is a Non-Executive Director of South Yorkshire Housing Association, and currently chairs the Scottish Government's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Group.
- Crisis is the national charity for homeless people. Crisis delivers services across England, Scotland and Wales to support people to end their homelessness, and campaigns on the policies and plans needed to end homelessness.

Polly Neate (CEO of Shelter)

- Polly Neate became CEO of Shelter in August 2017.
- She was Chief Executive of Women's Aid for nearly five years before joining Shelter, and was an executive director for Action for Children before this. She is a journalist by profession and worked in the media for over 20 years.
- Shelter is the national charity that aims to end homelessness and bad housing in England and Scotland. It gives advice, information, advocacy and support to millions of people in need, and tackles the root causes of homelessness and bad housing through its campaigns, research and policy work.

Jeremy Swain (CEO of Thames Reach)

- Jeremy Swain is CEO of Thames Reach since 2001 and is the deputy-chair of the London Housing Foundation.
- He has worked in the sector since 1980 and has a depth of frontline experience.
- Jeremy sits on the Mayor's No Night Sleeping Rough Taskforce and leads their data sub-group.
- Thames Reach is a voluntary sector organisation that every year works with more than 7,000 rough sleepers and other vulnerable homeless people in London.

Howard Sinclair (CEO St Mungos)

- Howard Sinclair is CEO of St Mungo's since 2014.
- Previously, Howard was Director for 15 years of Mencap Cymru and Chief Executive at Broadway Homelessness and Support.
- St Mungo's deliver services to people who are sleeping rough, in hostels and at risk of homelessness.

Jean Templeton (CEO St Basil's)

- Jean Templeton has been CEO of St Basil's since 2000.
- Prior to this she managed housing and neighbourhood services for a number of local authorities.
- St Basils is a charity that works with young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, helping over 5000 young people per year across the West Midlands region with specific services in Birmingham,

Coventry, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and the Wyre Forest.

Rick Henderson (CEO Homeless Link)

- Rick Henderson was appointed CEO of Homeless Link in July 2012.
- He is a member of the government's National Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel and the London Mayor's Rough Sleeping Task Group.
- Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. They work to make services better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

Andy Street (Conservative Mayor for West Midlands)

- Andy Street was elected Mayor of the West Midlands in the May 2017 election.
- Before becoming mayor, Andy was the managing director of John Lewis from 2007 to 2016.
- He was lead non-executive director for the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2016 and a member of the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Group.
- The Mayor has set up his own Homelessness Task Force in the West Midlands, with an early focus on people sleeping rough, children and families, young people (16-25s) and older singles (25+).

Andy Burnham (Labour Mayor of Greater Manchester Combined Authority)

- Andy Burnham was elected as Mayor of Greater Manchester in May 2017.
- Prior to this Andy was MP for Leigh from 2001. In government, Andy has held Ministerial positions at the Home Office, Department of Health and the Treasury. In 2008 he became Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, before returning to Health as Secretary of State in 2009.
- In opposition, Andy has served as Shadow Education Secretary, Shadow Health Secretary and Shadow Home Secretary.
- Andy lives in Leigh, Greater Manchester, with his wife and three children. He is a keen supporter of Everton FC.

James Murray (London Deputy Mayor for London Housing and Residential Development)

- James Murray is Deputy Mayor of London for Housing and Residential Development.
- James previously worked for Islington Council, where he was Executive Member for Housing & Development for six years.
- As Deputy Mayor, James is focussing on bringing together a broad alliance – including councils, housing associations, developers and businesses – to support plans to build more new and affordable homes in London.
- He is also overseeing work at City Hall to improve the private rented sector and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, in line with the Mayor's priorities.

David Orr (CEO National Housing Federation)

- David Orr is Chief Executive of the National Housing Federation since 2005.
- David was previously Chief Executive of the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, a post he held from 1990.
- His earlier roles included director of the Newlon Housing Trust in Hackney and 9 years at Centrepont.
- The National Housing Federation (NHF) is a trade association for member social housing providers in England.
- David was also previously president of Housing Europe, a network of housing federations whose members collectively house around 70 million Europeans.

Mark Lloyd (CEO Local Government Association)

- Mark Lloyd became Chief Executive of the Local Government Association in 2015.
- Prior to that he worked as Council Chief Executive for 10 years in Durham and Cambridgeshire.
- He is also a patron of the Whitehall & Industry Group.
- The Local Government Association is the national voice of Local Government, working with councils to support, promote and improve local government.

Mark Meehan (Director of Housing for Croydon and chair of the London Council Housing Needs Group)

- Mark has been Director of Housing Need at the London Borough of Croydon since 2015.
- He was elected national chairperson for Homefinder UK, the national mobility scheme for social housing, in 2016
- He has previously held senior management roles at Ealing, Camden and Westminster councils as well as serving as a national homelessness adviser for the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- He has worked in the field of homelessness and housing needs for over 30 years.

Gillian Douglas (Bristol City Council)

- Gillian has worked for Bristol City Council since 2001, and has been Head of Housing Options since 2014.
- Gillian previously worked at Falkirk Council and at the Central Scotland Racial Equality Council.
- Gillian Douglas provided evidence to Public Accounts Committee into homelessness on the 27th of November 2017.

Cathy Hadfield (Cornwall Council)

- Cathy has been Director of Housing Options at Cornwall Housing since 2012.
- She previously served as a national homelessness adviser for the Department for Communities and Local Government to support local authorities to meet the national Temporary Accommodation reduction target from 2008 to 2010.
- She currently manages the statutory housing advice, homelessness, temporary accommodation and Housing Register services for Cornwall Council, via the Council's ALMO, Cornwall Housing. Cornwall Housing is currently leading on the delivery of the Cornwall Reducing Rough Sleeping Strategy. Nos Da Kernow is a preventing rough sleeping pilot (funded by

CLG, as was) which is currently shortlisted for the CIH national awards, under the 'Outstanding Approach to Tackling Homelessness' category.

Peter Fredriksson (Advisor on Housing First to the Finnish Government)

- Peter Fredriksson is an advisor on housing issues to the Finnish Prime Minister's working group on inequality.
- He was previously a special advisor to the Finnish Ministry of the Environment and led on their homelessness strategy.
- Housing First was central to Finland's homelessness strategy and Peter is recognised as an international expert on the approach.
- Peter has also been chairperson of the secretariat of metropolitan policy in the Helsinki Region.

Lord John Bird (founder of the Big Issue)

- John Bird has experienced homelessness, both as a child and in his early-twenties, and today sits in the House of Lords as a Crossbench peer.
- He co-founded (and is Editor-in-Chief of) *The Big Issue*, Big Issue Invest, The Big Issue Foundation and International Network of Street Papers.
- Today, the Big Issue Group's mission is to dismantle poverty by creating opportunity, through self-help, social trading and business solutions; offering a 'hand up, not a hand-out'.

Brooks Newmark (former Minister for Civil Society)

- Brooks is a Research Associate in the Department of Politics & International Relations at Oxford University
- He served as the MP for Braintree between 2005 and 2015 and as the Minister for Civil Society in the Coalition Government.
- Brooks initiated and chaired a report on Homelessness in England with Crisis and the Centre for Social Justice. The report entitled: "Housing First: Housing-led Solutions to Rough Sleeping and Homelessness" was published in March 2017. Many of the reports recommendations have been adopted by the Government with the Housing First model being piloted in 2018 in Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region and the West Midlands.