

Senedd Cross Party Group on Housing

6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Mabon ap Gwynfor MS	Senedd Cymru (Chair)
Ruth Power	Shelter Cymru
Jennie Bibbings	Senedd Cymru
Matthew Palmer	Shelter Cymru
Wendy Dearden	Shelter Cymru
Elen Grantham	Shelter Cymru
Ross Thomas	Tai Pawb
Andrea Lewis	Swansea City & County Council
Bethany Turner	Country Land & Business Association
Cerys Clark	CIH Cymru
Bonnie Williams	Housing Justice
Ryland Doyle	Office of Mike Hedges MS
Robert Smith	Cardiff University
Tim Thomas	Property Mark
Carys Fon Williams	Cyngor Sir Gwynedd
Becky Ricketts	Care and Repair Cymru
Ceri Cryer	Age Cymru
Mark Congreve	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Katie Dalton	Cymorth Cymru
Manon Roberts	Public Health Wales
Andy Thompson	Powys Council
Cllr Linda Davies Evans	Carmarthenshire County Council
Cllr Shayne Cook	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Jasmine Harris	Crisis

Name	Organisation
Elizabeth Taylor	TPAS Cymru
Helen Cunningham	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Amy Lee Pierce	The Wallich
David Rowlands	Tai Pawb
Debbie Thomas	Crisis
Joy Williams	Carmarthenshire County Council
Stephen Rogers-Lewis	Cardiff Council
Carolyn Thomas	Senedd Cymru
Sam Rees	RICS
Steve Porter	Swansea City & County Council
Cllr David Daniels	Torfaen Council
Gareth Lyn Montes	Welsh Refugee Council
Thomas Hollick	The Wallich
Owen Thomas	Senedd Cymru
Carolyn Johnstone	Salvation Army
Rhys Thomas	Senedd Cymru
Casey Edwards	Cwmpas
Cllr Lynda Thorne	Cardiff Council
Sian Gwennlian	Senedd Cymru
Huw Irranca-Davies	Senedd Cymru
Nichola Zerk	Newport City Council

Agenda Item	Notes
Chair's Welcome	Mabon ap Gwynfor MS welcomed attendees to the meeting, outlined the agenda for the session and handed over to our presenter.
White Paper on Ending Homelessness in Wales	<b>Presentation</b> Debbie Thomas Head of Policy and Communications (Wales), Crisis  The presentation focussed on how legal change could help end homelessness.
Discussion Space	<b>Cllr Lynda Thorne</b> – welcomed the White paper but expressed concern over local authorities capacity to deliver extra requirements while there is such a shortfall in

	<p>housing supply. While there has been much focus on legislative reform, housing supply is needed to enable real change.</p> <p><b>Damien from the Disability Housing Task Force</b> – please come along to the Disability Rights Task Force and ensure that voices from people with complex needs are being heard.</p> <p><b>Carolyn Thomas</b> – would like to hear the panel’s recommendations on how to abolish priority need and intentionality and how would it work. Priority need is a massive barrier to many who have significant housing need. The consequences of intentionality are currently very severe and punitive.</p> <p><b>Elizabeth Taylor</b> – Does the White Paper address the home ownership sector?</p> <p><b>Huw Irranca-Davies</b> – Local Authorities are struggling to make reasonable offers due to lack of options/supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The benefits system isn’t devolved to Welsh Government so there were limitations on what recommendations the panel could make. Crisis recently worked with Zoopla to gather data that shows how few properties are available across Wales to rent at LHA rates. They are writing to Jeremy Hunt about this.</li> <li>• The White Paper has adopted that Personal Housing Plans should be a statutory duty, looking at individuals needs. This should go a long way to ensuring that suitable offers are made to that person.</li> </ul> <p><b>Linda Davies Evans</b> – there will be more refusals of offers without local connection. It is understandable why someone would refuse an offer that is outside their local community. People are losing their community and support network when they need them most, at a time when they are already losing their home. There is a serious shortage of properties in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p><b>Debbie Thomas</b> – local connection was a very difficult area for the panel. Local connection has been softened but not abolished. . It can now be more sensitive to those at heightened risks (e.g. care leavers etc) but can take on board other types pf connection to an area.</p> <p><b>Carolyn Johnstone</b> – Interested in views about the Home Offices comments relating to tents. Group members agreed that Suella Braverman should be held to account. Mabon could raise the issue at the Senedd as chair of this group, but it must be at the members request.</p>
AGM	The AGM was not held due to lack of representation
AOB	Cymdeithas yr Iaith Conference – Mabon ap Gwynfor informed everyone of the conference which will focus on the Right to Adequate Housing and will be held 16 <sup>th</sup> November at the Pier Head Building, Cardiff Bay.
Close of Meeting	Mabon ap Gwynfor MS thanked attendees and speakers.

	Mabon reminded everyone that minutes will be made available by Shelter Cymru in due course and closed the meeting.
Date of the Next Meeting	<b>To be agreed – discussions being held regarding joint meeting with construction CPG</b>