**All Party Parliamentary Group on Ending Homelessness**

**The impact of homelessness on children**

**Meeting Minutes**

8 June, 11-12midday, Zoom

**Attendees:**

**Panellists:**

* **Professor Monica Lakhanpaul**, Professor of Integrated Community Child Health and Consultant Paediatrician, UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health.
* **Maxine Jenkins**, Specialist Health Visitor and Queen’s Nurse
* **Dr Sarah Cockman**, Outreach Paediatrician for Homeless Families, Shared Health Foundation.
* **Sam Dorney-Smith**, Registered Nurse, Community Specialist Practitioner, Nurse Project Lead (Queen’s Nursing Institute Homeless Health Programme), Secretary (London Network of Nurse’s and Midwives Homelessness Group)
* **Kemi**, lived experience of homelessness and supported by the Magpie Project
* **Thelma**, lived experience of homelessness and Community Engagement Panel Member on the CHAMPIONS project

Neil Coyle MP, APPG Co-Chair

Bob Blackman MP, APPG Co-Chair

Sally-Ann Hart MP, APPG Vice-Chair

Jason McCartney MP, APPG Vice-Chair

Ben Everitt MP, APPG Vice-Chair

Baroness Healy of Primrose Hill, APPG Vice-Chair

Stephen Timms MP, APPG Vice-Chair

Baroness Lister of Burtersett

**Parliamentary staff:**

Graeme Smith, Office of Neil Coyle MP

Henry Cavill, Office of Nickie Aiken MP

Madeleine, Office of Lord Best

Rhian, Office of Hywel Williams MP

Isabel Abbs, Office of Jon Ashworth MP

Kathryn Sturgeon, Office of Wendy Chamberlain MP

Ben Rayment, Office of Saqib Bhatti MP

Daniel Ashcroft, Office of Siobhain McDonagh MP

Melissa Whitelaw, Office of Kate Osborne MP

**Secretariat:**

Emily Batchelor, Secretariat to APPG

**Other:**

Ruth Jacob, Crisis

Jasmine Basran, Crisis

Saskia Neibig, Crisis

Stella Tsantekidou, Crisis

Alice Parsons, Crisis

Sarah Walters, Crisis

Pratichi Chatterjee, Crisis

Hugh Currie, St Mungo’s

Suzannah Young, NHF

Lucy Robson, Oak Fnd

Hilary Nightingale, Cardinal human centre

Neil MacDonald

Eve Hatcher, Women’s Aid

Lizzie Waind, ADR UK

Trudie Short, NHS

Francesca Nolan, NHS

Erin Mansell, Solace Women’s Aid

Robert White, Mayday Trust

Nicola Ford, NHS

Alexandra Williams, NRLA

Emily Henderson, Westminster

Hannah Keilloh, CIH

Edward Hodson, Citizen’s Advice Bureau

Liza Collins, Health London Partnership

Hannah Rich, Shelter

Nikita Kaur, Angelou Centre

Anna Perkins, Porchlight

Joshua Williams, NYAS

Hazel O’Halloran, Bromfor council

Lucie Richards

Louise Jones, Surviving Economic Abuse

Jennie Corbett, Homeless Link

Cllr Kieron Wilson

Nigel Hewett, Pathway

Caroline Greenhalgh, The Childhood Trust

Rachel Marshall, St Martins

Siobhan Mchale, Manchester University

Polly Moffat

Alex Bax, Pathway

Sorcha Mahony, Children’s Society

Jo Richardson, DMU

Vita Bax

Sue Boran, QNI

Matt Bradby, QNI

Miriam Philip, Westminster

Nina Allard, the Pret Foundation

Louise Stewart-Roberts, Healthy Futures

Jonathan Adams, QNI

Eloise Di Gianni, Just for Kids

Signe Gosmann, Just Life

Catherine Gladstone, Wandsworth

Annie Dell, Salvation army

Anthony Castagnetti, SafeLives

Barbara Kombe

Phil Worsfold, PHE

Lisa Gavin, NHS  
Mike Thompson, Shelter

Jo Spurling, Shared Health Foundation

Jane Cook, MHCLG

Rachelle Angeline, MHCLG

Rosie Roberts, UCL

Raji Hunjan, Oak Fnd

Eva Morrison, Pathway

Dr Crystal Oldman, QNI

Hau-Yu Tam, Newham Council

Murali Surendran, Labour homelessness campaign

Neela Scott, NHS

Christa Maciver, JustLife

Liam Geraghty, the Big Issue

Kristine Fearon, DMU

Yoric Irving-Clarke, CIH

Lauren Fleckney, SafeLives

Beth Knowles, Shared Health Foundation

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| **Welcome and apologies** |
| Introductions |
| Bob Blackman MP | Bob Blackman MP (BB) opened the meeting by introducing himself, welcoming attendees and briefly outlining the event format.  BB introduced the first panellist, Kemi (K), who has lived experience of homelessness, and is supported by the Magpie Project. |
| Kemi | K thanked BB and outlined her own experience of homelessness and staying in temporary accommodation, including comments on the following:   * The main problems staying in temporary accommodation, including the lack of space, lack of repairs, mould and infestation, and the lack of choice and notice before moving. * How her son had lived his whole life in one room, and that they share facilities with 4 other families. * Her concerns for her son’s health and his physical development * Her call that families with children under five should be not required to cross boroughs when moving between temporary accommodations |
| Professor Monica Lakhanpaul | BB thanked K, and introduced the next panellist, Professor Monica Lakhanpaul (ML) Professor of Integrated Community Child Health and Consultant Paediatrician, UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health.  ML thanked BB and outlined the impact of homelessness on children, including comments on the following:   * The different types of homelessness families can experience * The scale of child homelessness – that a child becomes homeless in Britain every eight minutes – and that the impact of the pandemic means this is likely to grow * What poor housing conditions could involve – overcrowding, damp, pests, noise, and the impact of other residents and uncertainty * The impact of homelessness can have including premature births, lower GP registration, missed immunisations, development delays, chronic health issues, lower school attainment * How investing now can prevent lifelong health issues and destitution or homelessness |
| Dr Sarah Cookman | BB thanked ML, and introduced the next panellist, Maxine Jenkins (MJ), a Specialist Health Visitor and Queen’s Nurse who represented Health Visitors working with homeless families around the UK.  As MJ was experiencing technological difficulties, BB invited Dr Sarah Cookman (SC), Outreach Paediatrician for Homeless Families at the Shared Health Foundation,to speak.  SC outlined how she had seen first-hand the impact of homelessness on children and families, including:   * Safeguarding concerns – and their call for all mixing of homeless families and single people in temporary accommodation to cease * How Shared Health have created a list of standards for temporary accommodation * How children in need of support can slip through the gap of services, and how support should be integrated across different services * The need for improved data- how education, health and housing all have their own data systems and this means children can go unsupported   SC finished by calling on parliamentarians to sign and support the letter drafted by the APPGEH on the need for a notification system, and invited them to join the new APPG on households in TA. |
| Thelma | BB introduced the next panellist, Thelma (T), who had lived experience of homelessness as a child, and was supported by UCL.  T outlined her experience of homelessness including:   * The impact of homelessness, and living in a small space on child’s development and on parents wellbeing * How people don’t know that temporary accommodation is a form of homelessness * How there is discrimination against those who are from ethnic minorities and those with language barriers * How she had an amazing MP who helped and supported her and her mother, and the need to promote this form of help * Her belief that no child should be exposed to this environment |
| Maxine Jenkins and Sam Dorney-Smith | BB thanked T and invited MJ to make her speech.  As MJ was still experiencing technological difficulties, Sam Dorney-Smith (SDS), Registered Nurse, Community Specialist Practitioner, Nurse Project Lead (Queen’s Nursing Institute Homeless Health Programme), Secretary (London Network of Nurse’s and Midwives Homelessness Group), spoke on her behalf.  SDS outlined how specialist health visitors for families experiencing homelessness are registered nurses and midwives with additional training in public health. During COVID-19 they wrote to Ministers outlining their concerns, which included how frequent moves can result in missed immunisations and barriers to GP registrations.  MJ then spoke about two case studies from her professional experience, and comments on the following:   * How the digital divide in homelessness is worsening social exclusion * How health visitors are supporting homeless families * How children are hidden from the services that are there to protect them |
| Questions to panellists, 44:20 minutes | BB handed over to Neil Coyle MP (NC) to Chair.  NC thanked the panellists for their contributions, and spoke about his own experience of casework from constituents in similar circumstances.  NC then opened up the Q&A session with attendees.   1. Suzannah Young, (SZ) NHF asked about the Government’s ambition to tackle homelessness amongst families?   BB said he had been in the process of influencing government to act, including to provide more affordable housing.   1. Stephen Timms MP (ST) paid tribute to the work of the Magpie Project, and asked if there is evidence on the long-term impact of homelessness on health?   ML said there was clear evidence on children, but also parents, and how early preventable problems lead into adult problems.  Jane Williams (JW), from the Magpie Project, said with the right intervention, the bounce back of young children can be huge.   1. Alex Pax (AP), Pathway, asked about what can be done about those who are homeless but remain invisible to care services?   ML said that the visibility of children was critical, and that the notification system, alongside an integrated system with clear responsibility would help to change this. For example, schools don’t know which children are living in temporary accommodation.  JW said that there had been a huge breakdown of trust between these families and support services, over fear of losing their children for example, if they don’t submit to living in one room or moving across boroughs.   1. Daniel Ashcroft (DA), Office of Siobhain McDonagh MP asked about the regulation of temporary accommodation and whether an Ofsted style regular would improve settings?   MJ agreed that there was a need for better regulation. |
| Neil Coyle MP | NC invited parliamentary colleagues to sign the letter drafted to the Minister on this issue.  NC invited Emily Batchelor (EB), Secretariat to take a screenshot.  NC thanked panellists, attendees, Secretariat and closed the event. |
| Actions and deadlines | Secretariat to send around minutes to attendees and both Chairs. |