

Under One Roof: Homeless Link's 2025 Summer Conference

Monday 2nd June - Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Programme - Day one

10.30am Opening plenary: The picture of the sector

- Chair: Rick Henderson, CEO, Homeless Link
- Hashi Mohamed, Barrister, broadcaster and author of *People Like Us* and *A Home of One's Own*
- Alicia Walker, Assistant Director of Activism and Advocacy, Shelter
- Charlotte Talbott, CEO, Emmaus UK

11.45am Break

12.05pm Breakout session one – Your choice of the following sessions:

- **The Labour government and homelessness policy: one year in**
Sophie Boobis, Head of Policy and Research, Homeless Link
Cat Tottie, Policy Manager, Homeless Link
Alex Worrell, Policy Manager, Homeless Link
- **Developing neurodivergence affirmative services for people experiencing homelessness and multiple disadvantage**
Amelia Draper, Evaluation and Learning Lead, Changing Futures Nottingham - Framework Housing Association
Jeremy Garner, Team Leader, Changing Futures Nottingham
- **Preventing prison discharge to the streets**

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Niki Verdenik, Strategic Housing Specialist, Maidstone Borough Council & HM Prison & Probation Service

Anthony Welsh, Co-founder of GYR in Southampton and expert by experience

- **Compassion-Informed Practice: What if how we respond to the crisis *is* the crisis**
Joe Baldock, Homeless Link Associate
- **Race, ethnicity, and inequalities in homelessness**
Cuchulainn Sutton-Hamilton, Research and Evaluation Officer, Crisis
Emma Ulysses, Homeless Link Associate
- **Homeless health hubs: Meeting the health needs of people in day centres and hostels**
Amanda Croome, Head of Homelessness, Caritas Salford
Sophie Garforth, Day Centre Manager, Cornerstone
- **Tackling temporary accommodation – The Greenwich approach**
Vincent Lawal, Head of Housing Inclusion and Support Service, Royal Borough of Greenwich
Pete Smith, Director of Sector Development, Homeless Link

1.15pm Lunch

(1.35pm-2.05pm: Optional Social Investment Lunch and Learn
An introduction to social investment from our Head of Grants and Investments)

2.15pm **Panel discussion:**
Responding to a changing climate: Meeting diverse needs in homelessness support

- Chair: Fiona Colley, Director of Social Change, Homeless Link
- Minnie Rahman, CEO, Praxis
- Adam Pemberton Wickham, CEO, AKT
- Kerry Douglas, Author, Keynote Speaker and Lived Experience Consultant

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- Lucy Campbell, Head of Multiple Disadvantage Service Transformation and Domestic Abuse Organisational Lead, Single Homeless Project

3.25pm Break

3.50pm Breakout session two – Your choice of the following sessions:

- **Unlocking the Private Rented Sector: Lessons from the Front Line**
Rachel O'Connor, Programme Director, Greater Manchester Better Outcomes Partnerships
Tori Western, Operations and Development Manager, Fat Macy's
- **Radical Safeguarding Toolkit: Principles, tools and tactics towards anti-oppressive practice**
Gill Taylor, Independent Safeguarding Adults Reviewer and Systems Change Specialist
- **Supporting migrants with no recourse to public funds**
Bethan Lant, Project Lead, Praxis
- **What if co-production isn't just about service design, but systems change?**
Carl Brown, Systems Practice Manager, MEAM (Making Every Adult Matter)
Anthony Pickup, Involvement and Inclusion Manager, MEAM (Making Every Adult Matter)
- **Climate Change: Reflecting on the impacts for people experiencing homelessness and staff**
Alex Smith, Senior National Practice Development Project Manager, Homeless Link
Jo Turner, National Practice Development Project Manager, Homeless Link
- **Compassion-informed practice: What if how we respond to the crisis *is* the crisis (repeat)**
Joe Baldock, Homeless Link Associate

5.00pm Close of day one, hotel check in and relax.

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From 6.30pm: Excellence Awards drinks reception, presentations and dinner

Programme - Day two

9.30am Plenary – Looking to 2035: Hopes for the future

- Chair: Rick Henderson, CEO, Homeless Link
- Claire Ward, Mayor of the East Midlands
- Juha Kahila, Head of International Affairs, Y Foundation
- Sophie Boobis, Head of Policy and Research, Homeless Link
- Phil Kerry, CEO, New Horizons Youth Centre

10.45am Break

11.10pm Breakout session three – Your choice of the following sessions:

- **Harnessing Data and Cash Transfers for Early Homelessness Prevention**
Rachel O'Connor, Programme Director, Greater Manchester Better Outcomes Partnerships
Sarah Cooke, Managing Director, Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership
Jonathan Tan, CEO, Greater Chance
- **Changing the narrative on homelessness and poverty**
Mike Findlay-Agnew, Chief Executive, International Network of Street Papers (INSP)
- **How to transform the homelessness system: Lessons from 15 years of Housing First**
Sophie Boobis, Head of Policy and Research, Homeless Link
Juha Kahila, Head of International Affairs, Y Foundation
Alex Smith, Senior National Practice Development Project Manager, Homeless Link

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- **An introduction to systems thinking in homelessness services**
Hannah Dillon, Systems Practice Lead, Shelter
Nicola Hayler, Systems Practice Lead, Shelter
- **Tackling subsidy loss: An alternative outcome focused approach
(A session for Local Authority attendees)**
Mark Turner, Chief Operating Officer, The Housing Network
Sukhvinder Rai, Housing and Support Director, The Housing Network
Steve Pugh, Director of Homes & Places, YMCA North Tyneside
- **Looking after yourself: Vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue and burnout**
Tassie Weaver, Homeless Link Associate
- **In-Form customer update and feedback session**
Matt Harrison, Deputy CEO, Homeless Link
Matthew Smitheman, Senior Customer Success and Renewals Manager, In-Form

12.20pm Lunch

1.15pm **Breakout session four – Your choice of the following sessions:**

- **AI in the homelessness sector**
Neal McArdle, Founder, The Good Works
Fiona Kemster, Head of New Partnerships, BEAM
- **Upstream prevention: Identifying risk of homelessness in schools**
Stephen Elder, National Prevention Manager, Centrepont
Caz Davies, Upstream Cymru Manager, Llamau

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- **Modular Housing: A future housing solution?**
Natasha Davies, CEO, Jimmy's Cambridge
Rob Saggs, CEO, CHESS Chelmsford
- **Responses to opioid overdose in supported accommodation settings**
Chris Rintoul, Head of Harm Reduction, Cranstoun
Philippe Bonnet, Overdose Prevention Centre Lead, Cranstoun
- **Looking after your team: How reflective practice strengthens trauma-informed work**
Dr. Natalie Isaia, Clinical Psychologist and BGPS Head of Training
Spiros Georgiou - Head of Supported Housing (Homelessness & Mental Health), Hightown Housing Association
- **Looking after yourself: Vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue and burnout (repeat)**
Tassie Weaver, Homeless Link Associate

2.30pm **Final refreshment break**

Have a final drink, afternoon snack, and debrief with other delegates discuss everything you have heard and learnt over the two days.

3.00pm **Close of conference**

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