

# Under One Roof: Homeless Link's 2025 Summer Conference

## Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

### Programme - Day one

#### 10.30am Opening plenary: The picture of the sector

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

#### 11.45am Break

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

- **One year in: Homelessness policy and legislation update**  
Sophie Boobis, Head of Policy and Research, Homeless Link  
Cat Tottie, 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**  
Niki Verdenik, Strategic Housing Specialist, Maidstone Borough Council & HM Prison & Probation Service  
Anthony Welsh, Co-founder of GYR in Southampton and expert by experience

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- **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**
- **Harm reduction: Holistic approaches to supporting those using substances**

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: Meeting intersectional needs in homelessness support**

- Minnie Rahman, CEO, Praxis
- Adam Pemberton Wickham, CEO, AKT
- Kerry Douglas, Author, Keynote Speaker and Lived Experience Consultant
- 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:**

- **Engaging with the private rented sector**  
Rachel O'Connor, Programme Director, Greater Manchester Better Outcomes Partnerships  
Tori Western, Operations and Development Manager, Fat Macy's

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- **Homeless health hubs: Meeting the health needs of people in day centres and hostels**  
Amanda Croome, Head of Homelessness, Caritas Salford
- **Radical safeguarding toolkit for homelessness**  
Gill Taylor, Independent Safeguarding Adults Reviewer and Systems Change Specialist
- **Supporting NRPF Migrants**  
Bethan Lant, Project Lead, Praxis
- **Effective co-production: Harnessing expertise by experience**  
Representatives from MEAM (Making Every Adult Matter)
- **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.

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

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## 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
- Phil Kerry, CEO, New Horizons Youth Centre

10.45am Break

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

- **Innovative approaches to transforming homelessness prevention**  
Rachel O'Connor, Programme Director, Greater Manchester Better Outcomes Partnerships  
Sarah Cooke, Managing Director, Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership  
Amarjit Bains, Programme Director, Bridges Outcomes Partnerships
- **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
- **An introduction to systems thinking and its applications within 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)**  
Anthony Walker, Housing Manager, City of Wolverhampton Council

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Eddie Hughes, Former Housing and Homelessness Minister, Project Director at Church Development Agency Limited and Impact and Advisory Board member for the Housing Network  
Mark Turner, Chief Operating Officer, The Housing Network  
Sukhvinder Rai, Director - Housing and Support, The Housing Network

- **Looking after yourself: Vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue and burnout**  
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  
Tania Duarte, Co-Founder and CEO, We and AI (tentative)
- **Upstream prevention: Identifying risk of homelessness in schools**  
Stephen Elder, National Prevention Manager, Centrepont  
Caz Davies, Upstream Cymru Manager, Llamau (tentative)
- **Modular Housing: A future housing solution?**  
Natasha Davies, CEO, Jimmy's Cambridge
- **A discussion of climate change and homelessness**  
Jo Prestidge, Head of National Practice Development, Homeless Link  
Jo Turner, National Practice Development Project Manager, Homeless Link

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- **Looking after your team: How reflective practice strengthens trauma-informed work**  
Dr. Brett Grellier, Counselling Psychologist and BGPS Service Director  
Dr. Natalie Isaia, Associate Clinical Psychologist and Head of Training and Clinical Supervisor  
Spiros Georgiou - Head of Supported Housing (Homelessness & Mental Health), Hightown Housing Association
- **Looking after yourself: Vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue and burnout (repeat)**  
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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