

# broadway: the voice

May 2010

**Welcome to the Broadway Voice, a monthly bulletin designed to keep you up-to-date with key homelessness and housing news.**

The bulletin is divided into three parts:

- Key policy developments / news
- Summary of a key issue
- List of other reports, consultations and guidance

For more information, comments or to subscribe please contact Polly Morgan, at [voice@broadwaylondon.org](mailto:voice@broadwaylondon.org) or on 020 7710 0550.

## Policy News

### Coalition Government

#### Programme for Government for next five years

The Coalition Government has published a 'Programme for Government' outlining its plans for the next five years. Programme for Government: [More Info](#) and the Queen's Speech: [More Info](#). Key proposals relating to the homelessness sector include:

#### Communities and local government:

- Promoting the radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups. This will include a review of local government finance.
- Returning decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils.
- Exploring a range of measures to bring empty homes into use.
- Promoting shared ownership schemes and helping social tenants and others to own or part own their homes.

#### Jobs and welfare:

- Ending all existing welfare to work programmes and creating a single welfare to work programme to help all unemployed people get back into work.
- Ensuring that receipt of benefits for those able to work is conditional on their willingness to work.
- Re-assessing all current claimants of Incapacity Benefit for their readiness to work. Those assessed as fully capable for work will be moved onto Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Ensuring that Jobseeker's Allowance claimants facing the most significant barriers to work are referred to the new welfare to work programme immediately, not after 12 months as is currently the case.
- Developing Work Clubs and Service Academies to support people back to work.

#### Criminal justice:

- Introducing a 'rehabilitation revolution' that will pay independent providers to reduce re-offending.
- Exploring alternative forms of secure treatment-based accommodation for mentally ill and drugs offenders.
- Introducing effective measures to tackle anti-social behaviour and low-level crime, including forms of restorative justice such as Neighbourhood Justice Panels.

#### Immigration:

- Introducing an annual limit on the number of non-EU economic migrants admitted into the UK to live and work.
- Creating a dedicated Border Police Force.
- Stopping the deportation of asylum seekers who have had to leave particular countries because their sexual orientation or gender identification puts them at proven risk of imprisonment, torture or execution.

#### Substance Misuse:

- Banning the sale of alcohol below cost price.
- Reviewing alcohol taxation and pricing.
- Introducing a system of temporary bans on new 'legal highs'.
- Reviewing the Licensing Act to give local authorities and the police much stronger powers to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, any premises that are causing problems.

#### Health:

- Guaranteeing that health spending will increase in each year of the Parliament.
- Investigating ways of improving access to preventative healthcare for those in disadvantaged areas to help tackle health inequalities.

- Ensuring greater access to talking therapies to reduce long-term costs for the NHS.
- Breaking down barriers between health and social care funding to incentivise preventative action.
- Extending the greater roll-out of personal budgets to give people and their carers more control and purchasing power.
- Reforming Access to Work, so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they need.

### **Social action: the Big Society**

- Supporting the creation and expansion of mutuals, co-operatives, charities and social enterprises, and enabling these groups to have much greater involvement in the running of public services.
- Using funds from dormant bank accounts to establish a 'Big Society Bank'.
- Taking a range of measures to encourage volunteering and involvement in social action.

Measures aimed at creating a Big Society are outlined further in the document *'Building the Big Society'*. This sets out the cross-government policy programme aimed at empowering local people and communities and rolling back big government, bureaucracy and Whitehall power. [More Info](#)

### **Government savings**

The Government has also announced savings of £6.2bn from government spending in 2010/11. These include savings of £780m from Communities and Local Government and £535m in the Department for Work and Pensions. Cuts include £320m from employment programmes such as the Future Jobs Fund and £150m from savings in the last Government's housing pledge (while seeking to protect social housing). [More Info](#)

### **New Cabinet**

For a full list of newly appointed Cabinet Ministers: [More Info](#). Grant Schapps has been appointed Minister for Housing. [More Info](#). Nick Hurd has been announced as the Minister for Civil Society, responsible for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in the Cabinet Office. [More Info](#)

## **Local government**

### **Cuts in Mayor of London's budget guidance**

Mayor Boris Johnson's budget guidance for 2011/12 has been published. In it the Mayor asks for budgets to be planned on the basis of cuts of 1.5 percent, 3 percent and 5 percent in government grants. However, the Mayor will still strive to deliver his vision for 'competitive London' including the delivery of 50,000 affordable houses across London. [More Info](#)

## **Homelessness**

### **Homeless Link updates its Homeless Pages**

Homeless Pages, an online source of research and publications about housing and related issues, has been redeveloped. The new site is designed to make it easier to find publications and also offers advice for homeless people. It is offering many new features and easy access to information about homelessness amongst its online library with details of more than 1,780 books, reports and online documents. [More Info](#)

## **Housing**

### **Homes and Communities Agency cuts £230 million from its budget and freezes some spending**

The Homes and Communities Agency has had to cut £230 million from existing programmes and frozen spending on key schemes including Kickstart and the national affordable housing programme as part of the Communities and Local Government department's £780 million budget reduction for 2010/11. [More Info](#)

### **Shelter calls for new government to help homeowners at risk**

Shelter and the Council of Mortgage Lenders have written a joint letter to the new Chancellor George Osborne and new Business Secretary Vince Cable, urging them to take immediate action to help thousands of people at risk of losing their homes. Shelter is also keen for the Government to start working on a long-term homeowner support programme. The letter has also been signed by Citizens Advice and the Building Societies Association. [More Info](#)

## **Third Sector**

### **250 Third Sector Chief Executives call to David Cameron to be involved in his 'Big Society'**

More than 250 charity chief executives under the body Acevo have signed a letter to the Prime Minister, David Cameron seeking to offer their assistance in contributing to Cameron's envisaged 'Big Society.' In the letter the chief executives call for the government to send "an early, electrifying signal from the top that the way Whitehall deals with our sector needs to change". In March, as shadow Chancellor, George Osborne told the Acevo-Conservative Party summit that his party planned to increase the Third Sector's involvement in public services if they came to power. It is not known if David Cameron has responded to this letter. [More Info](#)

### **Philanthropic think tank launches social manifesto for new government**

The New Philanthropy Capital think tank has published a social manifesto calling for a sharper focus on social impact from the new government. One scheme is calculated to have the potential to save government £150m per year. The document sets out six recommendations that could improve social impact, three related to supporting charity effectiveness and three to supporting effective philanthropy. Recommendations include: the government should

introduce an Impact Fund to help charities measure their own impact; spending departments should coordinate the development of standardised frameworks for impact measurement; the Government should publish the evidence it collects from charities in the same way that it publishes other public services performance data. [More Info](#)

## Criminal justice

### **Economic study shows that support for prison leavers cuts re-offending by 40%**

An economic evaluation of the St. Giles Trust Through the Gates programme has been shown to cut re-offending by 40%. The report was initiated by charity Pro Bono Economics and carried out by economics consultancy Frontier Economics. Through the Gates offers intensive one-to-one support for prison leavers and the study reports £10 million savings to taxpayers through the £1 million scheme. [More Info](#)

## Client involvement

### **Study on how service users can be involved in 'shaping' local services**

This study by Age Concern London, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, brought commissioners and service users together to discuss how service users can be involved in shaping local services. The project reflected on what's happening at the moment and how user involvement in commissioning could work in practice. It found that the involvement of service users in shaping local services is still in its infancy, the definition of 'user involvement' varies from one-off consultations to equal partnerships and that there are more good practice examples of user involvement in Social Care than in Health. The project, based in London, worked across six London local authorities and seven different user groups ranging from mental health service users to people living with HIV. [More Info](#)

## Substance misuse

### **2010 Statistics in alcohol consumption published**

These statistics, published by the Information Centre for the NHS, reveal that when the survey was carried out in England in 2008, 71% of men and 56% of women (aged 16 and over) reported drinking an alcoholic drink on at least one day in the week prior to interview. Eleven per cent of men and 6 per cent of women reported drinking on every day in the previous week. 28% of men reported drinking more than 21 units in an average week and 19% of women reported drinking more than 14 units in an average week. [More Info](#)

### **Research calls for more abstinence detox programmes for prisoners**

Research published by think-tank Policy Exchange in a report called '*Coming Clean*' has found that 45,135 prisoners entered detoxification programmes in 2008/09, with the majority being prescribed drug substitutes for three months or more. The report claims that the previous government's Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) which was set up in 2007 has led to an increase in the frequency and length of prescriptions of methadone and a decline in shorter detoxification programmes. The report calls for longer-term prisoners to be expected to become drug-free as part of their parole and for more focus on abstinence-based treatments. [More Info](#)

## Social exclusion

### **Report on political challenges of multiple needs and exclusions for new government**

'*Hardest to Reach? - The politics of multiple needs and exclusions*' looks at the political challenges for the left and right of tackling multiple needs and exclusions and makes the case for a multiple needs and exclusions Green Paper early in the new Parliament. Produced by the Fabian Society in association with Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) - a coalition formed of Homeless Link, Clinks, DrugScope and Mind - and with funding from the Gulbenkian Foundation, the book includes cross-party contributions on policies to help those with multiple needs including homelessness, substance misuse and mental health issues. The publication also includes a summary of findings from the 2006 Adults Facing Chronic Exclusion (ACE) pilot projects which focused on three key areas: system change, transition points, and system navigation. Findings also conclude that as little as £50 per client per month led to crucial behavioural change and financial savings overall. [More Info](#)

### **State of the nation report: poverty, worklessness and welfare dependency in the UK**

This report, published by the Department of Work and Pensions, sets out a comprehensive assessment of poverty in the UK in 2010, which the Government will use to inform policy. Key findings include that almost one in ten people live in persistent poverty; there are 800,000 more working age adults in poverty than in 1998/9; and 1.4 million people in the UK have been on an out-of-work benefit for nine or more of the last 10 years. [More Info](#)

### **Household statistics reveal highest working-age level poverty since records began**

The latest Households Below Average Income figures have been published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) revealing that the number of people in working-age poverty is the highest since records began: In 2008/09 5.8 million working age adults were living in relative poverty before housing costs (BHC) and 7.8 million after housing costs (AHC). Compared to 2007/08 this represents a rise of 0.2million (BHC) and 0.3 million (AHC). The new Government has pledged to tackle this issue. [More Info](#)

## Mental health

### **Loneliness and mental health**

UK-wide research carried out for the Mental Health Foundation shows that one in ten people often feel lonely (11%) and half think that people are getting lonelier in general (48%). The report '*The Lonely Society?*' finds that chronic loneliness can lead to serious physical and mental health problems, and presents recommendations for tackling loneliness. [More info](#)

# Issue of the Month

## Supporting homeless people through the St Mungo's Pathways to Employment programme

### Here St. Mungo's describes this programme and its impact on the people it supports

In 2008 St Mungo's established its Pathways to Employment programme at two of its London hostels on a pilot basis. Last year this was rolled out into three more hostels, largely funded through the charity itself. Latest results show the programme achieving success, even at a time of high national unemployment.

How does Pathways to Employment work?

Firstly, it is hostel based. For those for whom a trip to a Job Centre, or a day centre, or a college could well be a step too far, having something that is hostel based removes that immediate first barrier. When you only have to go downstairs or across a corridor to meet your Pathways worker, it's much easier to do – and more difficult to shy away from.

Secondly, Pathways is about personalised support, bespoke help. The first step is an occupational health check to assess what level of health someone has and what kind of employment might best suit. Then it's a case of talking through people's hopes and aspirations, making an action plan to set them on the road towards what they want to achieve, however long that road may be.

Latest results show that it is having real impact. The programme is designed for long term interventions. Although many outcomes were achieved in the first six months, the real gains are seen among those who are on the Pathways programme nine months or longer. Among this group in 2009:

- 13% had gone into a full or part-time job (in catering, retail, the care sector)
- 6% had gained a work placement
- 6% were doing voluntary work
- 17% were taking a further education course
- 14% were completing a vocational training course

What is even more remarkable about these outcomes are the needs of the people on the scheme. A snapshot of 244 clients indicates that:

- 14% had a diagnosed mental health problem
- 21% had depression
- 26% displayed challenging behaviour
- 42% had a substance use problem
- 40% had a physical health issue
- 59% had an offending record

In total, 72% of clients had more than one complex need and only 7% had no needs recorded.

Set this too in the broader context. In St Mungo's 2009 survey of around 1,400 clients 53% last worked more than five years ago and 15% had never worked at all. And this at a time when the UK is experiencing its highest unemployment total in 16 years.

Rod Cullen, Group Manager for Skills and Employment Services at St Mungo's said: "What we're finding is that the Pathways approach enables us to be flexible. By being in the hostel, focusing on individuals, we're well placed to offer the sort of tailored specialist support that can get you into training or work within three to six months.

"Where people's needs are more complex, and involve more intensive support, the results show we are able achieve positive outcomes over nine or more months.

"We know that our clients are some of those furthest from the job market, far from being 'job ready'. With Pathways based in the hostel, the initial engagement opportunities are accessible. Activities are an essential stepping stone, enabling people to take that first step out of what may be a chaotic lifestyle towards an active, working future.

"Once people do engage and see positive outcomes, this can also help change the mind set of fellow hostel residents, still struggling to come to terms with their problems."

What do clients think? Some feedback includes:

*"I have received some IT training which has been really useful for me. For the first time I have access to emails and other Internet services. I have also received support around painting and decorating services."*

*"IT training (ECDL) Plumbing Course, Peer Facilitating, I run the Focus Group at Cromwell Road Life Coaching."*

*"I had one to one job coaching. Within a couple of months I had some volunteering and a work placement. I also got a CV done and up to date work references from the above activities."*

*"Basic Food Hygiene course, Cater Plus, Cooking course, CSCS course."*

*"St Mungo's staff have helped me so much and they have given me the confidence to apply for a course in college - CONEL"*

*"Literacy course, access to college courses, funding for courses, help completing applications."*

*"I have had several meetings at Pathways to Employment, I have passed a course in basic food and hygiene and I start a 10 week chefs course in a couple of weeks."*

St Mungo's continues to monitor Pathways, using feedback from clients to improve and develop the programme. This month the focus of St Mungo's 2010 Action Week from 20-27 June will be to raise awareness and lobby MPs and policymakers about the need for resources for specialist support schemes, like Pathways, to help homeless men and women in their longer journey back into employment. We mustn't write off homeless people's chances when it comes to finding work.

To find out more about Pathways, see [www.mungos.org](http://www.mungos.org) or email Rod Cullen, [rod.cullen@mungos.org](mailto:rod.cullen@mungos.org)

## Consultations, Guidance and Reports

### Reports

#### [Cornwall's response to the Homelessness Act 2002](#)

Cornwall council has published its first countywide response to the Homelessness Act 2002 in which it reviews current homelessness services within the district and outline a strategy for tackling homelessness within a local context.

#### [Measuring and Optimising Migration's Economic and Social Impacts](#)

This report presents the main findings from research carried out by Global Development Network and the Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr). The project aims to develop better methodologies for assessing migration's impacts, to improve the evidence base, and to contribute to responding to whether migration helps or hinders international development.



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