



Frontline agencies in partnership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 28 JUNE 2007

National and local homelessness charities call on Gordon Brown to renew commitment to end social exclusion

More than 100 homelessness charities are today writing to Prime Minister Gordon Brown and relevant ministers with a call to renew Labour's efforts to end the deep social exclusion of many homeless people.

Acknowledging the progress made by the Labour Government in reducing rough sleeping and other forms of exclusion, the groups point out that those left behind when targets were met are the most difficult to reach - people with multiple needs including addictions, mental health issues, challenging behaviour or a history of involvement in the criminal justice system.

'What is needed now is a fresh vision,' according to Jenny Edwards, chief executive of Homeless Link and author of the widely-endorsed letter. 'All too often the most chronically excluded people do not receive the public services they need and are left ricocheting around the system.'

The groups are calling for a renewed commitment to address social exclusion with measures in the next spending review explicitly to target assistance to homeless people with multiple needs.

Jenny Edwards said: 'We believe that, with renewed leadership, it is possible to change fundamentally the lives of tens of thousands of homeless people who are waiting for a chance to fulfil their potential.'

- ends -

For more information contact Anne Holmes on 020 7960 3075 or 07798 666 658.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- A version of the letter to Gordon Brown appeared this morning in The Times.
- Letter and list of groups who have signed it follows.



Frontline agencies in partnership

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28 June 2007

Dear Prime Minister

Pathways out of deep exclusion for homeless people

The Labour Government has led the world in reducing rough sleeping and providing support for homeless people. Your capital investment in hostels is turning them into places of change. The Supporting People programme is turning around lives that others had written off and building independence. This has all been achieved by the Government working in close partnership with third sector agencies.

We ask you to renew the drive to tackle the deep exclusion faced by many homeless people. Sixty percent of the people using our frontline services are not only homeless but have multiple needs, including addictions, mental health issues, challenging behaviour or a history of contact with the criminal justice system. All too often they have not received the public services they need and have ricocheted round the system. This can change.

What is needed now is fresh vision. We believe that it is possible for this country to show the world just what can be achieved in tackling the deep exclusion of homeless people. But we need Government explicitly to put this group into its priorities and those expected of local government.

The truly significant step forward would be a Government PSA target on multiple needs that recognises the deep exclusion of homeless people. This would be a strong lever to ensure services will deliver the integrated package of support that will move people out of deep exclusion forever.

Ten years ago the Labour Government dedicated itself to tackling rough sleeping as the most extreme manifestation of social exclusion. We believe that, with renewed leadership, it is possible to change fundamentally the lives of tens of thousands of homeless people who are waiting for a chance to fulfil their potential.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Edwards
Chief Executive
Homeless Link

AND

1. Tony Cook	ABCtales Foundation
2. Wil Williams	Agorfa
3. Keith Fennett	Anchor House
4. Ian Sutherland	Bath Churches Housing Association
5. Geraldine Howley	BCHT Group
6. Amanda Croome	Booth Centre

7. Martin Hancock	Bournemouth Churches Housing Association
8. Jed Din	Bradord City Centre Project Ltd
9. Nicole Iszak	Brent Health and Homeless Team
10. Gill Brown	Brighter Futures
11. Andy Winter	Brighton Housing Trust
12. Howard Sinclair	Broadway
13. Susie Maley	Business Action on Homelessness and Employability
14. Brian Holman	Cambridge Cyrenians
15. Linda Juland	CAN
16. Kate McGovern	Caradon Housing Youth Project
17. Tim Arthur	Cardboard Citizens
18. Cathy Corcoran	Cardinal Hume Centre
19. Richard Lucas	Ceredigion Care Society
20. Brian Heywood	Charnwood Independent Youth Action
21. Danny Maher	Cricklewood Homeless Concern
22. Mark Russell	Church Army
23. Brian Ainsley	Coastline Housing Ltd
24. Inma Vidana	Community Housing and Therapy
25. Mike Fowler	Coventry Cyrenians
26. Tom Biddlecombe	CRASH
27. Peter Mansfield-Clark	Crawley Open House
28. Peter Speed	Crewe YMCA
29. Leslie Morphy	Crisis
30. Tony Hall	Croydon Association for Young Single Homeless
31. Colin Glover	Connection at St. Martins-Adelaide Street
32. Conrad Watkins	Cyrenians Cymru
33. Andrew Liversidge	DENS Ltd
34. Paul Marriott	Depaul Trust
35. Stella Brown	Deptford Churches Centre
36. Clare Kivlehan	Dogs Trust Hope Project
37. Sean McDonnell	Durham Action on Single Housing
38. Mike Barrett	East Kent Cyrenians
39. Helen Marshall	East Potential
40. Tim Page	Emmaus
41. Keith Smith	Ferry Project
42. Steve Woodford	Foundation Housing
43. Bob Stewart	Four Square (Scotland)
44. Jane Slowey	Foyer Federation
45. Andrew Redfern	Framework
46. Peter Lyndon	Friends First
47. Brian Jones	Gear Project
48. Athal	Groundswell
49. Dan Miller	H2O Project
50. Andrew van Doorn	HACT
51. Amanda Troughton	HEALTH E1 Homeless Medical Centre
52. Sue Frost	Herts Young Homeless Group
53. David Kaner	HOPE worldwide
54. Claire Grainger	Hostels Liaison Group
55. Alison Gelder	Housing Justice
56. Elisabeth Clarson	Housing for Women
57. Halford Hewitt	Ipswich Housing Action Group
58. Graham Mynott	Keyhouse
59. Mat Hatton	Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness
60. Astrid Bannister	LAMP

61. Islay Watson	Lancaster & District Homeless Action Service Ltd
62. Victoria Stark	Look Ahead Housing and Care Ltd
63. Matthew Newman	M25 Housing and Support Group
64. Mike Kershaw	Macclesfield Accommodation
65. Jim O'Connor	NOAH Enterprise
66. Hilda Francis	Nomad Homeless Advice and Support Unit
67. Richard Appleby	Northampton Hope Centre
68. Mary Donoghue-Mills	NOVAS group
69. Carol Gallagher	Nuneaton & Bedworth Doorway
70. Linda Butcher	OSW
71. Martin Kinsella	P3
72. Jeremy Swain, chair	Pan London Providers
73. Dr Michael Jinks	Peasholme Charity
74. Ety McKinley	People Off The Streets
75. Jo Clare	Peter Bedford Housing Association
76. Dominic Wood	Priority Youth Housing
77. Jo Ansell	Providence Row Charity
78. Rita Nath-Dongre	REAP Resettlement Agency
79. Julian Corner	Revolving Doors Agency
80. Denis Skelton	Rochdale Petrus community
81. Aileen Edwards	Second Step
82. Helen Razdan	Self Help Community Housing Association
83. Peter Chapman, OBE	Shekinah Mission
84. Kevin Porter	Signposts
85. Liz Rutherford	Single Homelessness Project
86. Rick Brunwin	Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation
87. Emma Daniels	SITRA
88. Richard Frame, MBE	Solas
89. Carol Cooke	South Birmingham Young Homeless Project
90. Tim Allard	Space East
91. Ed Tytherleigh	SPEAR
92. Amanda Cooper	Spires
93. Sharon Allen	St Anne's Community Service
94. Jean Templeton	St Basil's
95. Jonathan Farrow	St Christopher's Fellowship
96. John Shortt	St Edmonds Society
97. John O'Sullivan	St John's Housing
98. Derek Player	St Martins Housing Trust
99. Trish Kinsella	St Mary's Rainbow Centre
100. Charles Frazer, CBE	St Mungo's Association
101. Matt Peacock	Streetwise Opera
102. Jeremy Swain	Thames Reach
103. Carol Hamlett	The Basement Night Drop In
104. Peter Davey	The Bridge
105. Major Ian Harris	The Salvation Army
106. Lloyd Hubbard-Mitchell	The Scrine Foundation
107. Steve Hedley	Trinity Homeless Projects
108. Angela Smithers	Two Saints Housing Association
109. Stephen Bell	Tyneside Cyrenians
110. Maureen McCarthy	Whitechapel Centre
111. Paul Thompson	West London Mission
112. Kristy Rhodes	Women's Housing Action
113. Jeremy Jones	York Arc Light