



Tips for meeting with your MP

It is likely that an MP will be interested to meet you and see the work you undertake – if this is based in their constituency. You could arrange to show them around the project(s) you work on, or meet to speak about the work you do.

Before the meeting

- Research your MP, find out what they are interested in and how this may link to your work. You can do this here: <https://www.theyworkforyou.com>.
- Plan in advance what your key messages are, and most importantly what you want your MP to do as a result of your meeting. For this campaign we want MPs to write to the Chancellor asking for sufficient long-term funding for the homelessness sector.
- If more than one person is attending plan who will say what.
- Understand what your MP can and cannot do, for example Ministers, Whips, Parliamentary Private Secretaries, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker have certain constraints on what they can be seen to be doing publicly.
- Think of ways that the MP might find the meeting useful. Most MPs have a blog, and many use Twitter, so plan for a photo opportunity so they can also promote your meeting publicly to.
- Contact the Campaigns Staff at Homeless Link if you would like them to attend the meeting too.

During the meeting

- Use personal stories, as well as facts and figures to bring the issues to life. The words of your service users are really powerful, and can sometimes be more persuasive than statistics. You could also speak about how staff feel having insecure jobs as a result of short-term funding.
- Try and keep the discussion focused on local issues. Tell your MP what this means for their constituency.
- Encourage other people to be there - whether people who use the service or volunteers or staff
- Avoid an argument – your MP might not agree with all your points, look for areas where you share opinions.
- Ensure you ask your MP to do something as a result of your meeting. Make sure this ask is clear and concise. For example, ask them to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to highlight your concerns over the short-term nature of funding for your service.

After the meeting

- Tweet and blog about your meeting, or post about it on Facebook or Instagram etc. Make sure you tag your MP if they also use social media.
- Contact them to say thank you and remind them of the action they said they would take. Follow this up in a couple of weeks if you haven't heard anything from them.
- Let the Campaigns staff at Homeless Link know how the meeting went.