



The All Party Parliamentary Group  
on  
**POVERTY**

**Joint meeting of the APPG on London and the APPG on Poverty**

Tuesday 17 October 2017, 09:00 – 10:00, Macmillan Room, Portcullis House

**Present:**

Catherine West (LAB) Secretary of APPG on London  
Neil Gray (SNP) Co-Chair of APPG on Poverty  
Steve Reed (LAB)  
Emma Dent Coad (LAB)  
Bambos Charalambous (LAB)

**Introduction**

Neil Gray MP, welcomed all to the meeting on behalf of both APPGs and paid tribute to the London Poverty Profile (LPP), adding that a Scotland equivalent would be invaluable. He noted that many of the poverty issues facing London were issues facing the rest of the UK – especially the need for affordable accommodation and access to good and well-paid work.

Catherine West recalled Lord Adebawale’s words: “There is now a danger that London will become a playground for the super-rich, a treadmill for the middle-classes and a workhouse for the poor.” Concern about Brexit and Universal Credit, she said, was now making poverty a mainstream political issue.

**Presentation**

Adam Tinson from the New Policy Institute (NPI), which produced the LPP for Trust for London, presented some key findings:

- London has similar poverty rates to the rest of the UK before housing costs, but much higher rates after housing costs are factored in.
- Since 2010-11, poverty has deepened (those in poverty have got poorer) in London as a result of social security cuts
- In 2015/6 58% of Londoners were in working poverty (it was 44% a decade earlier)
- The number of children in poverty in the private rented sector has tripled in 10 years
- 70% of all households in temporary accommodation in England are in London.

**Reflections**

Bharat Mehta, Chief Executive of Trust for London, thanked NPI for the presentation and pointed out that although the picture painted is grim, we must not forget successes, for example, more people are in work (albeit low paid).

Trust for London has published its priorities for future work, these include research on a London Minimum Income Standard and work on reducing housing, transport and childcare costs. On jobs, Trust for London will continue to promote the London Living Wage and pay progression, tackle rogue employers and work with Child Poverty Action Group on others on welfare reform issues, especially Universal Credit.

Deborah Hargreaves, Chair of the London Child Poverty Alliance (LCPA) spoke about London's inequalities – a woman buying a £1m+ flat just to have somewhere to change after a run at one extreme, to young people sharing a bed with friends to keep housing costs down towards the other end.

#### **Q&A discussion**

The particular vulnerability of women to cuts in benefits and services was discussed. Emma Dent Coad MP expressed her shock that a London child had been diagnosed with rickets.

Adam Tinson noted that London's child poverty map is similar to Charles Booth's map. It was noted that Kensington & Chelsea is London's most unequal borough.

Catherine West MP expressed concern with the increase in revenge evictions. Steve Reed

Steve Reed MP said he was seeing lots of people affected by Universal Credit problems but these would not have fed through yet into these poverty statistics.

Bharat Mehta ended the meeting by recalling that during his time on the Lewisham Poverty Commission he met a young mother who told him her biggest fear: looking after her own children, while on a low income.

Meeting closed.

**Secretariat:** Dr Wanda Wyporska (Equality Trust) and Imran Hussain (CPAG)  
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