



The All Party Parliamentary Group
on
POVERTY

APPG on Poverty Annual General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 23rd November 2016, 17:00 – 18:00, W2 off Westminster Hall

Present:

Kevin Hollinrake MP - Chair

Baroness Ruth Lister - Vice-Chair

Flick Drummond MP - Secretary

David Burrowes MP (represented by his researcher, Peter Backhouse)

Chris Green MP

Kate Green MP

Earl of Listowel

Tommy Sheppard MP

Corri Wilson MP

Apologies for absence:

Neil Gray MP - Vice-Chair

Alan Mak MP

Baroness Maeve Sherlock

Daniel Zeichner MP

Finances 2015/16: The APPG on Poverty has not received any income nor has it made any expenditure. The value of benefits received in kind from the Webb Memorial Trust is £9,001 £10,500. This covers the costs of the secretariat, refreshments at events and the APPG's website.

Election of Officers: Kevin Hollinrake MP was re-appointed Chair and Neil Gray MP was re-appointed as Vice-Chair in his absence, in accordance with his wishes expressed in advance of the meeting.

The following officers were agreed: Flick Drummond MP at Secretary and Baroness Ruth Lister as Vice-Chair

Kevin Hollinrake MP remains the primary contact for the Group.

It was noted that the APPG on Poverty has hosted a number of well-attended public-facing events between April and November 2016 which have considerably raised the profile of the APPG. These include;

- Launch of Secure & Free, a report by Compass drawing on ideas from across the political spectrum to respond to the problem of insecurity (27 April)



The All Party Parliamentary Group
on
POVERTY

- Panel discussion exploring the role of business in tackling UK poverty (3 May)
- Meeting exploring the response of civil society to food poverty followed by a summit of Fairness Commissions from across the UK (28 June)
- Co-hosted with Trussell Trust the launch of *Foodbanks: From Crisis Response to Crisis Prevention* (19 July)
- Panel discussion exploring the potential for local responses to poverty and the launch of a corresponding publication by the Centre for Local Economic Studies (7 September)
- Co-hosted a panel discussion with the APPG on Housing & Planning asking '*What is the future of social housing?*' (19 October)
- Hosted the launch of a New Statesman pamphlet; *Who is responsible for tackling UK poverty?* (26 October)
- Panel discussion with Child Poverty Action Group: What will it take to improve children's life chances? (16 November)
- Meeting with contributors to Taxpayers Against Poverty's Affordable Housing campaign (16 November)

Minutes from AGM discussion:

Kevin Hollinrake MP welcomed members and peers to the meeting and highlighted a number of the events and discussions the APPG on Poverty has held over recent months (full list above)

Tommy Sheppard MP noted the the importance of maintaining cross-party consensus regarding the concern MPs share over core issues of poverty whilst being mindful of the challenges presented by political differences. The Scottish National Party is particularly concerned about changes to in-work benefits. Evidence produced through research by the Resolution Foundation has been particularly informative.

Flick Drummond MP said that there may be different political takes on how we address UK poverty but there is a common understanding of the problems people go through. The APPG should consider moving to a more consultative style; taking evidence from organisations working to tackle UK poverty and producing policy-informing briefings.

Kate Green MP mentioned several organisations doing important work from across the field of UK poverty research including the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Centre for Social Justice and the New Policy Institute.

Baroness Ruth Lister highlighted the importance of involving in the APPG more people who have personal experience of poverty, noting the work being done by ATD Fourth World. We must not overlook this central perspective on poverty.



**The All Party Parliamentary Group
on
POVERTY**

Kevin Hollinrake MP noted that the problems of poverty is high on the agenda of many MPs and highlighted the important work of the Communities and Local Government Committee in support of the Homelessness Reduction Bill.