

APPG on Poverty: Minutes

Tuesday 30th March, 2021 at 4pm

Zoom

Attendees: Kevin Hollinrake MP (Chair), Baroness Ruth Lister, Afzal Khan MP, Tony Lloyd MP, Dr Wanda Wyporska (Co-Secretariat, the Equality Trust), Sara Ogilvie (Co-Secretariat, CPAG), Lizzie Flew (Co-Secretariat, CPAG), and Zhané Edwards (Co-Secretariat, CPAG).

1. Welcome and introductions by Vice-Chair Baroness Ruth Lister

- Sara Ogilvie introduced herself to the officers. Sara will be assisting with the co-secretariat of the APPG as Louisa McGeehan's successor and CPAG's new Director of Policy, Rights and Advocacy at CPAG.

2. Governance of APPG

- Members agreed that meetings should be held on a monthly basis.
- Members shared their thanks to Neil Gray for his time as co-chair of the APPG, after his resignation ahead of the Scottish elections. All members commented on the great work he has done on issues around poverty during his time at Westminster.
- Tony Lloyd nominated Ruth Lister as co-chair. It was raised that the position of co-chair is an informal role, and so does not require a formal election process as Kevin Hollinrake will remain APPG's Chair and registered contact.
 - **ACTION** - Zhané to send round email to APPG members to see whether all are in agreement for Ruth to sit as co-chair.

3. Longer term work ideas

A) The £20 uplift

- Members gave their thanks to the Secretariat for putting together the APPG's latest report on the £20 uplift.
- Afzal Khan highlighted a survey he had recently conducted with his constituents about their financial security over the past year which concluded that the £20 uplift is still very needed.
- Sara Ogilvie indicated that after the party conferences and before the Comprehensive Spending Review could be a good opportunity for the APPG to do some influencing.
- Tony suggested the APPG combine their work with the £20 uplift into a submission for the Comprehensive Spending Review/ Autumn Statement.

B) In-work poverty

- Kevin Hollinrake raised the policy of freezing the personal allowance rate and whether there is room to explore the impact on this for lower earners in the long term if the increase in minimum wage drops.
- Sara suggested the APPG could do another short inquiry around the upcoming Employment Bill.

- Ruth recommended that the work is split into two stages: The Bill and then a wider piece of work on in-work poverty that includes the role that employers can play.
- **ACTION** - Zhané to write-up a quick note of this work and share with APPG members.

C) Joint event with the APPG on Ending the Need for Food Banks

- All members agreed to holding a joint event with the APPG on Ending the Need for Food Banks to host the report launch for CPAG's Ending the Need for Food Banks project.
- Officers noted that pre-pandemic, the APPG had agreed to do some work on local welfare assistance schemes.
 - It was proposed that the APPG could bring together the various pieces of work being done on LWAS, e.g. in Manchester, and perhaps hold an evidence session.

D) Joint event with the APPG on Future Generations

- Members provisionally agreed to hosting a joint event with the APPG on Future Generations, but need more detail. All agreed to discuss further at a future meeting.
 - **ACTION** - Zhané to find out more on timings and content of event.

E) Support for the socio-economic duty

- Wanda Wyporska highlighted that the socio-economic duty fits with the government's "levelling up" agenda, and has already been implemented in Scotland and Wales.
 - **ACTION** - Wanda to write up a one-sided note on the socioeconomic duty from an anti-poverty perspective and explain why it's appropriate now.

4. Any other business

- Officers agreed that the APPG should try find an SNP officer to replace Neil Gray.
- The APPG is coming to the end of its reporting year and so will need to hold an AGM.
 - **ACTION** - Zhané to find a date and arrange the AGM for before the Whitsun recess.
 - **ACTION** - Zhané to draw up a 2021 work programme for the APPG.

The meeting closed at 4:45pm.