

APPG on Poverty AGM Minutes

Tuesday 19 March 2024

11.30am-12.00pm

Room C, 1 Parliament Street

Attendees: Baroness Lister (Meeting Chair), Baroness Healy, Beth Winter MP, Cat Smith MP, Brendan O'Hara MP, Alison Paton (Office of David Linden MP), Nasteha Dirow (Office of David Linden MP), Rob Donnelly (The Equality Trust - Secretariat) and Priya Sahni-Nicholas (The Equality Trust - Secretariat)

Apologies: David Linden MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Stephen Timms MP, John Nicolson MP, Deidre Brock MP, Stephen Crabb MP and Robin Millar MP.

1) Welcome and introductions by Co-Chair, Baroness Lister

2) Tribute to Tony Lloyd MP

- Cat Smith MP led a short tribute to Tony Lloyd.

3) The following parliamentarians were elected as Chair & registered contact, Co-Chair and Officers:

- David Linden MP - Chair & registered contact (elected in absentia)
 - Baroness Lister - Co-Chair
 - Beth Winter MP - Officer
 - Baroness Stroud - Officer (elected in absentia)
- Parliamentarians present approved all Officers, Chair and Co-Chairs. All approved of the Equality Trust acting as Secretariat of the APPG on Poverty.

4) Approval of the income and expenditure statement

- The total support received by the APPG, either in money or in-kind, did not reach the current threshold of £12,500 (or the £1,500 threshold which comes into effect on 31 March 2024) and therefore no statement was produced.

5) Discussion of APPG activities for the coming year:

- Baroness Lister announced the next confirmed event hosted by the APPG which will be the report launch of the joint inquiry with the APPG on Migration on the Effects of the UK migration system on Poverty. This will take place on Tuesday 30 April 2024 - 11am - 12pm in the Attlee Suite in Portcullis House.
- It was agreed that no new inquiries will be launched by the APPG in light of the upcoming general election expected to take place later this year.
- Rob Donnelly ran through a list of proposed events/meetings which would take place after the report launch in April. The proposed events/meetings are:

- A meeting on the 'socio-economic duty' (SED) and how it could be used to eliminate poverty in the UK
 - Meeting with a speaker from the Local Government Association (LGA) on the Welfare Assistance Scheme and the Household Support Fund
 - Gordon Mullan from UBI Lab Network has offered to speak to us about how UBI could be a means to tackling poverty
 - Dr. Kingsley Purdam from the University of Manchester has offered to present their latest research on poverty across the life course
 - Digital Poverty Alliance CEO has offered to speak to us about their National Delivery Plan and the digital divide
- Priya Sahni-Nicholas spoke about how the priorities of the APPG could be community led and co-produced. The APLE Collective, who the APPG has worked with previously, was mentioned as a possible partner in this.
 - Baroness Lister is eager to hold an event with the LGA which would look at combining the Household Support Fund and the Welfare Assistance Scheme and took the view that the meeting should take place in the next few months and suggested contacting the APPG on Ending the Need for Food Banks run by the Trussell Trust to ask if they would be interested in co-sponsoring the event. The secretariat will follow-up with contact at LGA and Foodbank APPG.
 - Beth Winter MP raised that Disability Rights UK are interested in speaking to the APPG as well as Debt Justice UK - Beth will pass on details of both to the secretariat.
 - Baroness Healy - Raised the 'Guarantee Our Essentials' campaign run by JRF and Trussell Trust in relation to the digital divide and digital poverty and whether we could explore this issue of establishing a 'minimum digital living standard'.
 - Baroness Lister mentioned a recent study conducted by the University of Liverpool, Loughborough University, and the digital inclusion charity the Good Things Foundation which found that [nearly half of UK families are excluded from modern digital society](#).
 - Cat Smith MP recently met with the think tank Promising Trouble who have done a lot of work on digital poverty and could be a good partner for this work.

Action Items

- Secretariat to contact APLE Collective about priority setting for the APPG
- Secretariat to follow-up with LGA on the proposed event on the Household Support Fund and the Welfare Assistance Scheme and will also contact the APPG on Ending the Need for Food Banks.
- Other proposed events/meetings to be discussed further by Secretariat and APPG Chairs, Officers and members at future meetings/online discussions.
- Beth Winter, Baroness Healy and Cat Smith to pass on details noted in the agenda

6) AOB

- None

Meeting closed at 12pm