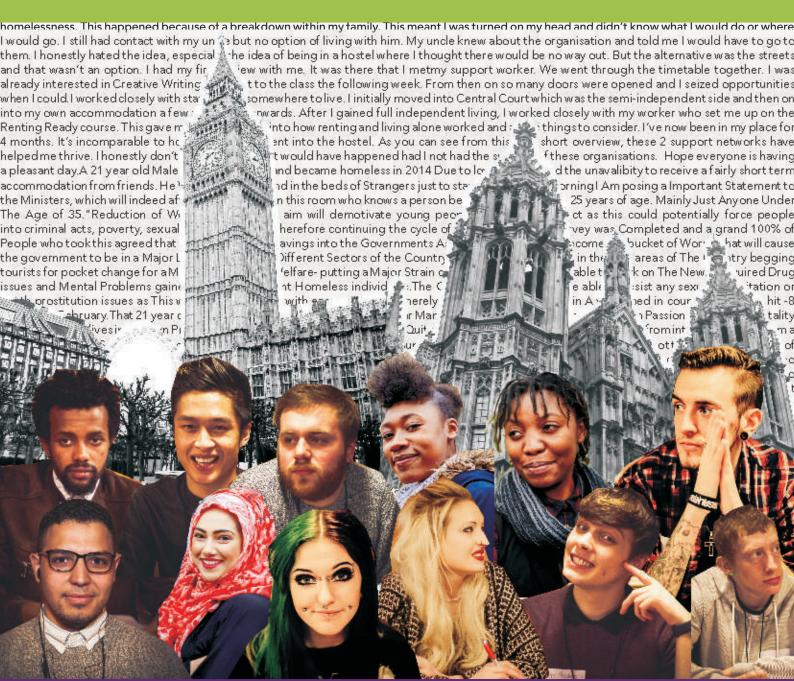


YOUTH HOMELESS PARLIAMENT



YOUTH VOICE MATTERS

2016

n and debt which would bring the back to square and debt which who volunteered their pea

CONTENTS

- Thank you for your time in listening,. I had a period of about 9 months where I experienced nomeressness

- **3 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**
- 4 AN INTRODUCTION TO THE YOUTH HOMELESS PARLIAMENT
 - **6 NATIONAL CONSULTATION**
 - 7 THE MAIN EVENT
- **9 WELCOME SPEECH 2016**

10 THE REPORT
14 DCLG CONSULTATION
18 REFLECTIONS OF THE DAY

23 REFLECTION POEM



navalibity to receive a fairly short term accommodation from friends. He Was sofa Surfing and in the bode of Street

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

cocket change for a McDonald's CoffeeWelfare- putting a Major Strain on them as they will be unable to work on The Now

National Youth Homeless Parliament (YHP) met for their third annual meeting on 15th March 2016 in Westminster. 100 young people from across the country supported by our 9 partner agencies came together to advise Ministers of their views on key elements of government policy affecting young people.

In preparation for the event, the YHP membership had consulted and shaped their views on three key government policy areas of housing, employment opportunities and welfare support. Their views and recommendations were offered to improve policy in action, in the light of their lived experience. Each recommendation was followed by an account from a young person of their particular experience in this area.

The contents of this report provide the detail of their contributions and the views from young people of what will work and is to be welcomed and what they think is flawed and could have dire consequences. The importance of their unique perspective should not be underestimated. YHP provides the opportunity for those who have lived experience to contribute to the improvement and development of policy which will hopefully prevent others in the future having similar experiences.

DCLG colleagues used the opportunity to consult with YHP members on how best to

improve prevention and early help and we hope that this feedback will inform any forthcoming duties around prevention.

We would like to thank the Minister for Local Government, Marcus Jones MP for listening and responding to each point made by the YHP members.

We are at a crossroads where it is still possible to protect important lifelines for vulnerable young people and prevent young people from experiencing the dangers associated with homelessness. Young people continue to ask the key question; what changes as a result of their contributions? There is an opportunity when the Youth Homelessness Parliament returns in 2017 to demonstrate that their contributions made a real difference to some of the imminent decisions and policy actions.

It was a privilege to chair the event and I would like to thank the YHP Members for their contributions and consideration. I would like to thank the Minister for his welcome and for listening and responding to the Members and I would also like to thank partner organisations and members of the steering group as well as DCLG colleagues for their support and engagement with the Youth Homeless Parliament.

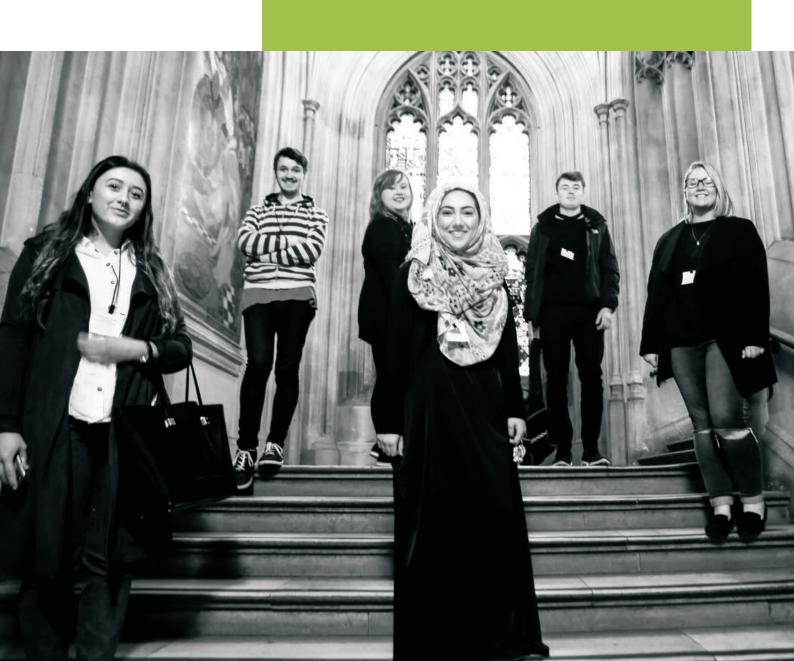


avalibity to receive a fairly short term accommodation from friends. He was sofa Surfing and in the beds of Strangers just to stay "ALIV have been seen to the Ministers, which will indeed affect Every person in this room who knows a person between the Ages

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE YOUTH HOMELESS PARLIAMENT

ommodation and is known to be Quite the inspiration for routh. Not speaking it is not to Cut off Any Group of people , but to put the countries Major Issues in Dealing with Housing is not to Cut off Any Group of people , but to put the countries Major Issues in Dealing with Housing is not to Cut off Any Group of people , but to put the countries with the countries with the countries of the countries with the countries of the countries of the countries with the countries of the

St Basils, a youth homeless charity based in the West Midlands, who facilitate the National Youth Reference Group (NYRG), were commissioned by The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in May 2013 to facilitate a 'Youth Homeless Parliament' in Parliament.





Aims of Youth Homeless Parliament

The Youth Homeless Parliament's aim is to ensure homeless young people's voices, concerns and ideas are heard, at the heart of Government, where it really matters. The Youth Homeless Parliament is made up of 100 young people aged 16-25 from across England who have been homeless and currently receiving support from one of the following charities that work with homeless young people: St Basils, Centrepoint, Crisis, Depaul UK, The Foyer Federation, St Mungo's and YMCA. Each of these charities has put forward young people to join the Youth Homeless Parliament including young people representing NYRG. One hundred young people from across England ensures a good representation from a variety of backgrounds, cultures and locations, including more rural communities. The Membership and Housing Policy organisation Homeless Link has also provided invaluable support to the initiative.

Background

On 13th December 2012, MP for Erdington Jack Dromey invited 100 young people from 7 homelessness charities including St Basils, Centrepoint, Homeless Link, Crisis, Foyer Federation, YMCA and St Mungo's Broadway to come together to draw up a 'Homeless Youth Manifesto' to present for discussion to a cross-party panel which not only included Labour MP Jack Dromey, but Liberal Democrat MP Don Foster and Conservative Planning Minister Nick Boles. This event made history; it was the first time homeless young people had ever been invited to Parliament to debate directly with ministers. Jack Dromey MP was also keen that the event would help young people dispel some of the stereotypes and myths around 'homeless people'. The young people were invited to vote on their 3 key priorities and collectively they identified these as: 'A Consistent Voice For Young People', 'Tackle The Lack of Affordable Quality Housing' and 'Abandon Proposals To Cut Housing Benefit to under 25s'. This successful event led to the announcement in May 2013 by then Housing Minister, Mark Prisk MP that St Basils would receive initial funding to develop the concept further.

The Partnership

St Basils and NYRG with the help of the partner organisations, organise a large event bringing all 100 young people together to meet with Ministers in Parliament annually. The first official YHP took place on 16th December 2013. The 100 young people had the opportunity to question ministers on current housing policy and their current plans as well as presenting what they think the top 3 priorities should be. Staff from DCLG also took the opportunity to consult those present on a range of housing related matters. In 2014, the Youth Homeless Parliament attended the House of Commons, Westminster, again. This year the steering group were keen that YHP main event focuses on the Youth Voice; the lived experience of YHP members. The main event will focus on the consideration of young peoples policy "Where am I in all of this?". Our partners from Homeless link, Crisis and YMCA produced a framework of the Governments policy ambitions to base this year's report on.

ent in Charities and organisations who go out of pocket to Accommodate people of their minor mistakes. Also prioritising Youth in the Ford

NATIONAL CONSULTATION

be very anxious about things going wrong and me being homeless again. I'm 19 years old and became nomeless when I was its state of the some cousin took me in but shortly after moving, I found out I was pregnant which meant I was homeless again. After moving, I found out I was pregnant which meant I was homeless again. After moving, I found out I was pregnant which meant I was homeless again.

On Tuesday 15th March 2016, 100 young people aged 16-25, who have experienced homelessness, attended the Youth Homeless Parliament. All 100 youth homeless parliament members travelled to the House of Commons in London to directly address Marcus Jones MP (Conservative), to discuss issues and experiences affected by homelessness.

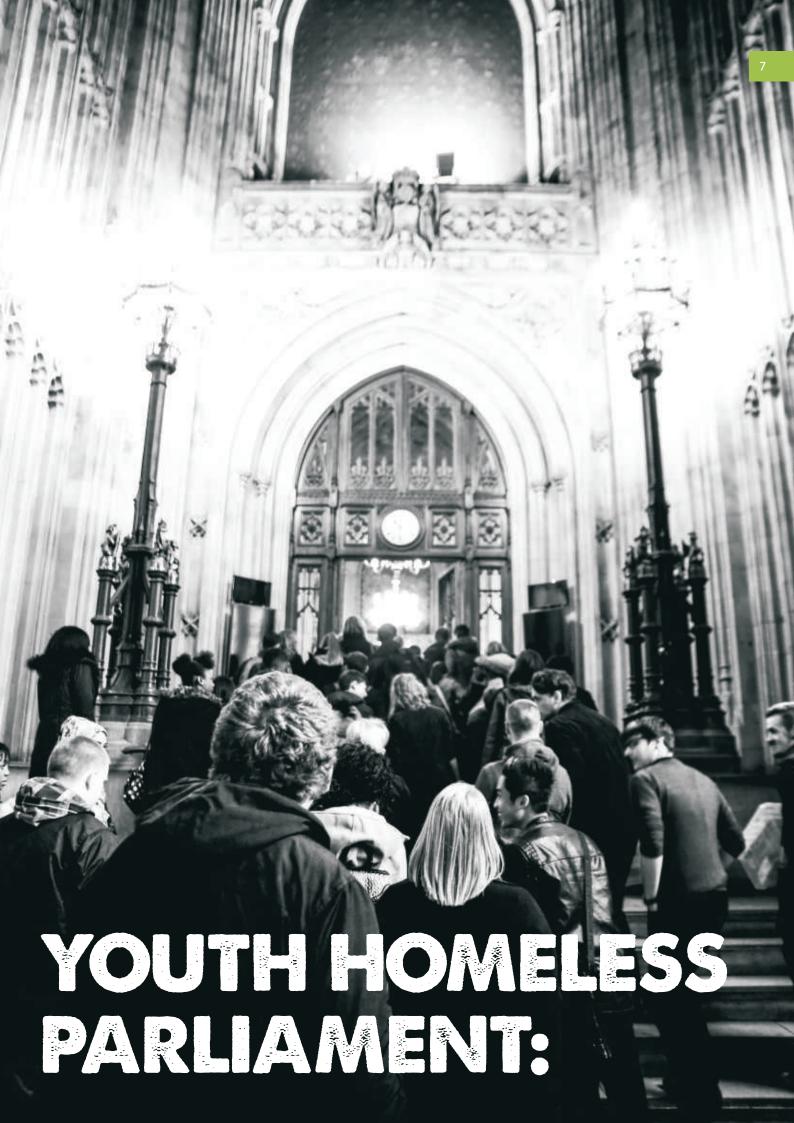
Representatives of the Youth Homeless Parliament from across each organisation presented their pre-prepared report to each other and the Minister. The report was collated based on the views of young people from across England on three Government policy aims. The three aims young people consulted on were:

- 1. Housing
- Employment opportunities
- 3. Welfare support

The organisations in which the Youth homeless Parliament members were engaged with included; St Basils, Centrepoint, St Mungo's Broadway, YMCA, Crisis, Depaul and NYRG. During the consultation process, young people completed individual or group work sessions to establish their views regarding the policy aims. This was facilitated by staff from these organisations.

Feedback was collated, themed and matched to the government policy aims. This enabled the young people to share views, informing the Minister of their lived experiences and addressing concerns and recommendations. Using the consultation feedback, 6 key points were identified for the report which included: incentivising employment, further education and training, starter homes, private rented sector, welfare spend and welfare reform.





re I faced struggles with other residents, education and lack of motivation to complete day to

THE MAIN EVENT

men accided that a new nousing application would need to be sent off as soon as possible, as m nousing to this day but I've had a few viewings so I can only hope that I'll find the right accommo

Youth Homeless Parliament members shared their views on government policies affecting homeless young people.

On 15th March 2016, 100 young people from across England who form the 'Youth Homeless Parliament' (YHP) assembled at Parliament to address Minister for Local Government Marcus Jones MP on proposed government policies which they believe will directly impact on young people and youth homelessness.



to

iny ed vas

strated, as support wasn't fully available and I had barely enough time for myself. I began to self-harm again as the

WELCOME SPEECH 2016

mac in the right accommodation for me

onsidered buying my own home because it doesn't seem affordable due to my current income and Lars week to afford the rent charged here, but in the pear future I'd like to b



Hello and welcome all to the Youth Homeless Parliament 2016. I would like to begin by thanking on behalf of all Youth Homeless Parliament members, Marcus Jones MP for hosting the event today.

I stand before you today, both grateful and honoured to have been spared your time. The diverse mix of young people you see were selected based on the high level of expertise we all share in one crucial field; being homeless. We are here today because we have been or currently are homeless. You will hear, from those willing to share, personal testimony in response to the planned changes in various policies; these statements will describe how these policies will drastically affect our lives, be us rough sleepers, sofa surfers or fortunate hostel dwellers like myself. We did not ask to be made homeless; but we are grateful to have been given this chance at a voice, to make an impact, now that we are.

I stand before you today, humbled by such a huge responsibility. Yet I am merely a scale. A single scale on the back of a fish; a tiny fish that may swim alone, but is in fact part of something much bigger - a colossal unified organism that moves breathes and feels together. I may be small, but I matter, and have a voice big enough to speak on behalf of my school, my peers; my fellow homeless youth. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard as equals in this place of such significance, to hear from those who know best the repercussions of such changes. It is days such as this, that give me the hope of a better future, for both myself and my fellow young men and women facing the sickening uncertainty of where they may be sleeping at night.

To those young people who have travelled so far in order to be present and heard here today, showing their support for this momentous union of voices; a union that only stands to reinforce the true democratic nation that is Britain. Yet we are here today as there is still more that needs to be done, before true equality within the masses can emerge. In 2013 a re-evaluation of the social class system emerged via the BBC; a report that determined the prior three-tiered system of upper, middle and lower class was seemingly outdated. The 7 new classes to surface ranged from the Elite, ranking most highly in terms of economic and cultural capital, down to the precarious proletariat, ranking lowest on all forms. We represent the eighth, unspoken of class, those who have no permanent abode, but thrive in so many other areas. But I can only thrive with the support of my Government.

I may be labelled, I may be limited; I may be part of a small minority; but so diverse are we within our collective, I feel we can confidently and concisely offer you a clear insight into our lives, can be heard on behalf of a vast majority and ultimately be seen as individual young people each with unique experience and specific needs; as opposed to merely an insignificant statistic, as it can often feel we are reduced to. It is time to break through any paradigms, for divisions between classes to be dissolved or the classes that unknowingly co-exist to erase any lines of separation that so sadly segregate us. Through this collaboration of minds, we can work towards a brighter, more positive future for young people in Britain today. Thank you.

By Holli Louise Parchment.



்த பொள்ளtain full time employment, பவாய்த

nergency accommodation took the stress and weight off my shoulders with somewhere to stay for the three weeks w urther into their service and commitment in following through, thankfully Lam now settled in a placement in Camden v

> the ti THE REPORT in. Wi nany י rentic e of a

ons. – Thank you for your time in listening,. I had a period of about 9 months where I experienced homelessness. This hap

Opening Statement

Today, we are here to address three proposed government policies that will impact directly on young people.

- 1. Incentivising employment and young people into work.
- 2. Help more people have a home of their own and improve housing in the private rented sector.
- 3. Reduce welfare spending.

100 young people that make up this youth homelessness parliament have been consulted for their views on these proposed policies. We will summarise in a statement what this house believes on each policy. Backed up by young people's lived experience. We believe this will help support you to make informed decisions in the



INCENTIVISING EMPLOYMENT AND HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE INTO WORK.

ıll 4 core aspects being all over the place at the time. It was a struggle to find balance and availability

Employment

Aim: The Youth Obligation: a requirement for people who have been out of work and on JSA for over 6 months to undertake training, apprenticeships

or work placement.

aini om

· sp ow

osi

Statement: 84% of the youth homeless parliament are in favour of proposed

government plans for the youth obligation.

Young people's view points

- 1. This will help young people to develop skills, qualifications and experience in the work place, gaining confidence and more importantly a routine. Young people need volunteering to be recognised in line with apprenticeships and traineeships as there are opportunities to develop similar skills and abilities from volunteering.
- 2. We believe that as soon as young people receive JSA, young people need to attend "preparation courses whilst getting JSA i.e. interview techniques, building confidence, self-esteem". Incentives should be used to encourage young people. It is important that this is identified on an individual basis and young people believe that having extra support from someone in the role of a mentor would support this.
- 3. Young people believe in the youth obligation. There needs to be taster sessions to ensure that young people have the choice and are on the right career path to sustain future employment in their fields of interest.

Further Education & Training

Aim: Expanding apprenticeships schemes: this includes a pledge to create 3 million apprenticeships.

million apprenticeships

Statement: The majority of the Youth Homeless Parliament members agree with the expansion of the apprenticeship scheme, however a lot of the young people were hesitant to agree or disagree on this. Due to concerns regarding choice, accessibility and location of apprenticeships.

Young people's view points

- 1. We feel that we need this kind of opportunity now not later, as the vast majority of young people here today won't be able to access this scheme, due to the time frame. Apprenticeships currently available to us are: not accessible, not in areas of interest or of suitable working hours. Additionally, skills and interests need to be matched, therefore careful consideration is needed regarding staff supporting this initiative. We often have issues and barriers.
- 2. We strongly believe that apprenticeships should offer training alongside placements. Young people need to see a career pathway and progression as well as gaining the experiences and qualifications needed for entry into work.
- 3. There needs to be a proportion of apprenticeships guaranteed for young people in Youth Homeless organisations. Consideration needs to be made to living wages, opportunities for live and work schemes as well as accessibility to university placements.

truggling to maintain full time employment, training and qualifications whilst on an apprenticeship, and trying to sort out emergency accompanies.

HELP MORE PEOPLE HAVE A HOME OF THEIR OWN AND IMPROVE STANDARDS OF HOUSING, PARTICULARLY IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR.

the world to live in. Without the accommodation aspect, its hard to survive, your home is where your heart in With called a being an

Home Buying

Aim: Increasing the supply of starter homes: these would be aimed at people

aged under 40 and be capped at 250k (450k in London).

Statement: All of the YHP members believe that there should be an increase in starter homes and think that this is a good idea. However young people

from a less advantaged background feel this aim does not correlate

with, and support their current circumstances.

Young people's view points

1. Young people feel that this is an efficient method. However there needs to be extra financial support available to allow this proposal to include vulnerable young people too.

2. We believe that this initiative is not aimed at single young individuals or young families. However is aimed at more affluent individuals.

3. Young people that experience homelessness be that rough sleeping, sofa surfing or living in inadequate or overcrowded conditions all aspire to have somewhere to call their own home but simply believe that the government have nothing in place that allows young people to have these aspirations in housing.

Rented Housing Sector

Aim: New measures to tackle rogue landlords in the private rented sector

(PRS) this includes the introduction of banning orders and a rogue

landlord database.

Statement: Young people strongly agree with introduction of banning orders and a

rogue landlord's database as this will ensure the safety of young people. However there are concerns with young people gaining access into the private rented sector due to the need of deposits and local allowance

caps.

Young people's view points

 For young people to access the private rented sector there needs to be procedures in place that protect the most vulnerable alongside introducing strict fines to ensure the dismissal of landlords trying to get away with poor practice.

2. Young people's experiences of living in the private rented sector does not equal value for money and therefore young people believe that landlords should enter a training program before they become landlords to ensure adequate standard of living.

3. We believe that having a rogue landlord database would be efficient in practice, although this needs to be carefully monitored and maintained to carry out banning orders.

lification and debt, 3/4 core aspects are covered in Life on an apprenticeship, but the missing aspe

REDUCING WELFARE SPENDING

aund it hard to survive during this period of being on an apprenticeship as all my money was going

Welfare Reform

Aim: Removing the automatic entitlement to housing benefit for those aged

18-21 (there will be some exemptions, eg for care-leavers, but details of

these are still unconfirmed).

Statement: 100% of young people disagreed with this proposal and are concerned

about how this will impact young people in areas such as; increase in

homelessness, mental health issues, crime rates and debt.

Young people's view points

1. Young people from the YHP insist that exemptions must include vulnerable young people supported by homeless charities, like us.

When young people face hardship, it is noted that more young people are putting themselves into promiscuous and inappropriate

relationships/situations in order to have a home.

3. This statement from the government ignores the reason young people become homeless. It is not just about having a place to live. We need ongoing consistent support to overcome the complex barriers we face.

Aim: Freezing Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates (fixing the level of housing benefit you can get under LHA and shared accommodation rate if you

are under 35).

Statement: 100% of young people disagree with freezing the LHA rates and we have

major concerns and believe that this will have a massive impact on

Young people's view points homeless young people now and in the future.

 We believe that freezing the LHA will reduce opportunities for young people looking for accommodation and therefore we will be stuck in a cycle of unsuitable housing limiting our life choices. This could be detrimental to young people without family and support networks.

The LHA needs to be equivalent to rent and then the freeze would not impact on young people as much. However young people are already struggling to get into PRS due to affordability issues.

This policy aim will demotivate young people, this is a scary fact as this
could potentially force people into criminal acts, poverty, sexual
exploitation and therefore continuing the cycle of homelessness.





pects are covered in Lite on an apprenticeship, but the missing aspect is the availability of a tive prelative or the prelative prelativ

period of being of an apprenticeship as all my money to apprenticeship and was offered a job afterwards I

The Department for Communities and Local Government facilitated a session with YHP members. The purpose of this session was for young people to answer three questions which would help shape current thinking on youth homelessness. These three questions were:-

- 1. What are the root causes of homelessness?
- 2. If you were the Government, what would you put in place to prevent those route causes?
- 3. What would you ask the Government to stop doing in relation to youth homelessness?

Delegates were split into four groups to work through these questions which were facilitated by their peers from National Youth Reference Group. Many opinions were expressed on the subject but two key elements ran through a lot of the conversation. There was united opinion that getting rid of universal credit can help cope with the root causes of homelessness. Also, life skills are crucial to make sure that youth homelessness doesn't happen. There was overwhelming support that this should be made part of the school curriculum.

Thi ntac

de

fir

b tł re ·

in€

THE ROOT CAUSES THERE WERE MANY REASONS WHY YOUNG PEOPLE BECAME HOMELESS NOT JUST DUE TO FAMILY BREAKDOWN HERE A FEW OF THE REASONS THAT

ntioned above this could easily offer realistic dynamics and enhance opportunities for young people looking to gai

vii r. I ve now been in my place for 4 months. It's incomparable to how I telt when I went into the hostel. As you can s

ctor.Apprenticeships are the core and noy a

- Leaving care

YHP MEMBERS BECAME HOMELESS.

- Lack of awareness and understanding regarding difficulties of homelessness and living alone and pressures

- **Cultural differences**





tions. – I nank you for your time in listening,. I had a period of about 9 months where I experienced homelessness.

WHAT DO YHP MEMBERS SAY ON PREVENTION?

which was the semi-independent side and then on into my own accommediate.

Family

- Family intervention and mediation including counselling as a family, as early as possible
- Safety net for the family
- Family educated and aware of issues affecting homeless young people
- Offer respite to young people and families
- Free family bonding activities

Housing

- Maintain housing benefit claim even if benefits i.e. JSA and Income support claims suspended/ stopped
- Safe and secure environment
- More housing specific to young people
- Build more social housing and cap rents; adding in protection for tenants and use empty land
- Lower deposit amounts and reintroduce tenancy bonds

School

- Education around budgeting and bills
- Easier opportunities for work experience
- Support from school regarding homeless needs and sign posting
- Workshops in schools around homelessness
- Schools to listen to children, not parents if they are upset with issues at home

Support

- Support with and readily available help for any potential mental health issues confirmed/unconfirmed
- Prevention services for young people with mental health
- Support groups for young people
- Support groups for someone living with mental health illness
- 24/7 help lines to raise concerns and gain advice regarding homeless issues/ support services available
- Working tax credits to be available to working young people

that I metmy support worker. We went through the timetable together. I was already interested in <u>Creative Writing so Lye</u>

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STOP OR DO DIFFERENTLY.

in 2014 Due to low finances and the unavalibity to receive a fairly short term accommodation from friends. He Was sofa Surfi

- Stop cutting funding to services including homelessness, mental health, financial support
- Stop cutting money from youth work which could be used to educate young people
- Stop sanctioning housing benefits. If benefits are cut there will be no money to pay rent if housing benefit is cut
- Stop cutting the NHS funding for specialised services mental health and substance misuse
- Keep housing benefit for 18-25's
- Help young people equally not just care leavers
- More support with finances for job interviews, education and furniture
- Not to give restrictions to where homeless can sleep, as long as they aren't causing problems
- Build accommodation around the welfare infrastructure but develop education and training through apprenticeships allowing for young people to gain employment form experience and qualifications together.
- Stop universal credit monthly payments are difficult to budget on such low income
- Make wages higher for apprenticeships to allow homeless young people to consider this as a viable option
- Raise university grants to match tuition fees and living costs
- More relatable/ working class MPs that have firsthand experience of issues affecting homeless young people
- Stop paying young people less than 'adult' wage even though still have to pay 'adult' prices on travel, rent, clothes, food etc



omeless when I was 20 and on an apprenticeship. Also being gay and disabled, I approached my council, only to find there was no hop

CFIECTIONS OF THE DAY

use of a breakdown within my family. This meant I was turned on my head and didn't know what I would do or where I would go. I still had comout no option of living with him. My uncle knew about the organisation and told me I would have to go to them. I honestly hated the id

YOUNG PEOPLE



Fur

s of

je a

ole a

alar

w b

leg

g pe ho

as o

mp

Gov or ye expe

ırthe

of an

and acc

nce

ecc

e be

opl

rolu

fere rtar

rnn

ıng

end

vou

hc

't a

homeless when I was 20 and on an apprenticeship. Also being gay and seems general three Boss thought of an idea that she used when she was younger for emergency accommoda g to

It was a really good day. The minister seemed keen to help and listen to everyone there. The best thing was hearing the young people give their opinions and seeing the minister really listening and responding to what was said. What would be better would be if even more young people could voice their story and be heard.

Mohammed ElBagoury 18 years old Resident of St Mungo's, Milton Keynes

that t all

in fq

into

and

are r

hw k blrc

ıld o I to

Lone

Ire

d to

st a

t in

ni k

an

are

w b

orld

ıld d

to

.on

l re

l to elp

k ex

cau

∍ bı

ide

e. It wind

in general. I panicked until my Boss thought of an idea that she used when she was younger for emergency accommodatic ing to maintain full time employment, training and qualifications whilst on an entire that provided me with employment.

I appreciated the chance to participate in such a life changing experience, which is how visiting the Houses of Parliament felt to me. I found the occasion overwhelming due to the unity of young people who are all in a similar situation as I am. The politicians answers helped me to understand but the main point was that by being there with other people like me I got the feeling of knowing I am not alone. Feeling as if I am apart of something has meant a lot to me.

Thomas Sweet

18 years old
Resident of St Mungo's, Milton Keynes

fare ad wl vorlo

ould o

t Lor

as I re

ded to

an heli

work e

d beca

uncle y the i

ith me

t or an idea that she used when she was younger for emergency accommoda and qualifications whilst on an apprenticeship, and trying to sort out emergency

I'll start by introducing myself. My name is Daniel Wilcox and I attended the Youth Homeless Parliament on the 15th March 2016. I was quite honoured to be chosen to share my experience in the hopes that it would help to inspire changes to the way homelessness is viewed and handled. I was impressed at how many actually were present and how confident we all were when it came to delivering the pieces of policy and our lived experiences. I feel that Marcus Jones' presence really helped with this confidence as I feel each person that had an opportunity to speak got the feeling of really being listened too.

Daniel WilcoxCrisis- young person

to sta

. Furles of

ge a ble a

alan w b

lege g pe

no v s of

ipo ove

yo

oer e l m. as

eat th

th nt

n alt

be a

ed t

bb a

app

If ar

ole İ

ome

b. I st

tly h

tior

ing s find

atos. It was a struggle to maintain all 4 core aspects being all over the place at the time. It was a struggle to find balance and available to the place at the time.

I found the day to be inspiring and eye opening, it made me more confident and I am glad I went. It motivated me even more, to stay on track and be successful! People came up to me and told me how my story helped them and that was my most fulfilling part. That my story helped others.

Sherelle YMCA- young person

anisation that provided me with emergency accommo

became homeless when I was ZU and on an apprenticeship. Also being gay and disabled, I approached my council, only to find there was no als or in general. I panicked until my Boss thought of an idea that she used when she was younger for the council.

у uncle but no option of living with him. My uncle knew about the organisation and told me I would have to go to them. I honestly hated to

PROFESSIONALS



hom gene tom nat p all a fol to ra /he d t on o si nd relo to f :lp d cex cau e bu ide: ne. I owir

mo

all a

n fol

nto nd d

e rat

/her

d to

only

sur

dor

loc

fod

OV

хре

use

ut n

lea o

It wa ing w oved at livir

g to maintain full time employment, training and qualific

The Youth Homeless Parliament has become such an important date in the calendar as it makes sure young people can have their say at the highest level. This year's event was one of the best yet, as at a time when so many policy changes are impacting on young people, it was fantastic to see so many take up the opportunity to put across their views to the Minister. Government has to listen to people who know best about what needs to change as these policies are rolled out. Homeless Link hopes the Government uses the experiences shared by all the young people who took part this year to shape it's work over the coming months.

Helen Mathie Homeless Link professional statement

.., only to fin

enc y fc

her

an a

dι

cor

e ar

om

pein

ole v

unte

red

nce

men

g pe

ced uld c

ones

an or

Writ

nergency acc

r th

int

pp

ıniv

mn

nd

me

ing

e w

nte

ed a

hce

her

pe

ced uld c

ones

an o

Writ

ff to

fterwa o how

ne host pened 2014 Di

I would like to say thank you to all young people who made this event possible. Youth homeless parliament is such a moving event and it has been a privilege to have worked with such inspirational young people. I enjoyed watching young people build their confidence throughout the day and genuinely support each other about issues so close to their hearts. It was great to see the minister personally respond to each individual young person about their lived experience. Fantastic.

all across London volunteering accommodation took the stress and weight off my should be not onto and d

when nomeless, upon the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining a full time position as an Appearation in the responsibility of maintaining and the responsi

Homeless, alone, where are we to go? Home? NO!

We have no home anymore, please help!

We're lost and we're confused.

From family breakdown to mental health, not forgetting abusive too!

We're trying on our own but without help.

How far will we go, before once again, we're left without a home?

Night Stop, St Basil's, all trying to help, but do they really understand the pain that we have felt?

e ra

We just want a home, a home to call our own but so many obstacles are placed in our way. It constantly feels like our legs will give way.

It feels like a race,

A race against time,

To get things done because we refuse to be a bum!

We just want a job, education too.

Knowledge is the key,

YOU know it's true!

So help us please we're begging you!

How many more young people will we lose?

Knife crime is rising, hate crime too.

We're hurting each other simply because

we don't know what else to do,

With not much to lose!

But with your help and understanding, help us make a change!

We only ask for one thing and that's for better days.

Help us build a future and by expressing

our trials and tribulations today,

Please don't ignore us!

We can make a change

Rome wasn't built in a day!

Shakeena Blake - St Basils



YOUTH HOMELESS PARLIAMENT

FACILITATED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

















Contact Information

YOUTH HOMELESS PARLIAMENT

St Basils Heath Mill Lane Deritend Birmingham B9 4AX

Tel: 0121 772 2483

info@stbasils.org.uk www.stbasils.org.uk www.youthhomelessparliament.co.uk

Charity No: 1080154

Homes and Communities Agency No: H3994 Company Limited by Guarantee No: 3964376

and Registered in England

Publication August 2016