

**LSE Housing and Communities
Housing Plus Think Tank 2: Welfare Reform and Poverty
– the next big challenge for social landlords**

**Tuesday 4th June 2013
with an informal supper and debate from 7pm on Monday 3rd June**

Trafford Hall, National Communities Resource Centre, Wimbolds Trafford, Chester CH2 4JP

This event follows LSE Housing and Communities' first Think Tank – *Tackling an Uncertain Future* – which was held at Trafford Hall in February 2013. This second Think Tank on *Welfare Reform and Poverty* will focus on how social landlords are tackling welfare reforms and poverty alleviation in an increasingly unequal society. What wider role can they play beyond just providing homes? The project brings together practitioners and policy makers working in social housing to share their knowledge and experience on the complex challenges facing the housing world today. The aim is to develop radical thinking about housing as a foundation stone of family life, community, social capital and self-help.

Monday 3rd June

6.30pm Drinks in the bar
7pm Hot buffet supper

8-9pm Informal debate: Will rising inequality pull the country apart or will housing associations rush into the breach to save us?

Chair: Anne Power, London School of Economics

Speakers: Carol Mathews, Riverside;
Kevin Dodd, Wakefield and District Housing;
Mairéad Carroll, East Thames

Tuesday 4th June

Chair: Liz Richardson, Senior Lecturer, University of Manchester/ Visiting Fellow, LSE

9.00 – 9.15 Registration and refreshments

9.15 – 10.45 Session 1: Welfare Reform and Poverty – a challenge to housing associations

- How big is the challenge? How serious are the pressures?
Anne Power, London School of Economics
- Are social landlords up for the challenge?
Helen Williams, National Housing Federation
- Thinking about the unresolved issues
Jon Bright, Department of Communities and Local Government

10.45 – 11.15 Break and refreshments

11.15 – 12.30 Session 2: Helping the truly disadvantaged

- Housing people on the lowest incomes
- Helping communities under pressure
- Providing special support and care
- Making rented housing work for vulnerable groups
- Does philanthropy work?

Stephen Burns, Peabody
Matt Corbett, L&Q
Robin Lawler, Northwards Housing

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch and tour of Trafford Hall

1.30 – 2.45 Session 3: Anti-poverty action can help

- Why low income areas are being hit on all sides
- Worked examples of anti-poverty action
- Preparing front-line staff for the challenge

John Craggs, Gentoo
Mairéad Carroll, East Thames Group
Helen Wordsworth, Wakefield and District Housing

2.45 – 3.00 Break and refreshments

3.00 – 4.15 Session 4: Social enterprise and other action to combat poverty

- Developing skills
- Developing local enterprise
- Helping to overcome barriers to work
- Building on the co-operative tradition

Joe Doherty, Willow Park Housing Trust
Phil Bowley, Green Square Group
Babu Bhattacharjee, Poplar HARCA

4.15 – 4.30 Round-up

4.30 End and depart