



LSE and Trafford Hall Housing Plus Think Tank: Welfare Reform and Tenants' Experiences

Summary and outline programme

Tuesday 5th – Wednesday 6th November 2013

Trafford Hall, near Chester

Housing Plus is about social landlords adopting a **wider role in communities** where they are based. In poorer households and areas, social landlords need to reinforce their role if they are to manage their properties and maintain the viability of their tenancies. Tenants need this wider help in order to manage changes in rents and benefits, employment opportunities and skills, special care needs and many other aspects of their life.

Welfare reform is having a dramatic impact on the lives of social housing tenants, particularly those under 60. Landlords are finding it difficult to help their tenants and to continue to operate both their core and wider services effectively. For tenants the impacts are serious and immediate. We have uncovered real struggles, deep conflicts and urgent needs. We have also seen how much active social landlords and their tenants can do.

This special Think Tank is aimed at social housing tenants to **help understand the reforms and build resilience**. We also want to gather real evidence and share it widely. We are interested in discovering who are the most vulnerable and worst affected tenants, whether there is more that could be done, whether landlords are developing better access routes and more support for tenants as a result of the pressures of welfare reform, and also whether welfare reform is being properly connected to access to work and job opportunities.

Although welfare reform is a very serious subject, it is an area where communities are coming together and where much can be done to help young people, families and those whose families have grown up and are being particularly hard hit by changes. It is **important for tenant voices to be heard**, and their experiences are shared.

LSE and Trafford Hall Tenant Think Tank: Draft Outline Programme

Tuesday 5th November

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| 15.30 – 16.00 | Registration and refreshments |
| 16.00 – 18.00 | Session 1: Getting to know each other - people, places, landlords, services |
| 18.00 – 18.30 | Free time |
| 18.30 – 19.30 | Dinner |
| 19.30 – 21.00 | Bonfire night quiz |

Wednesday 6th November

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| 8.00 – 9.00 | Breakfast |
| 9.00 – 10.30 | Session 2: What is welfare reform about? What is it doing to us? |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | Break and refreshments |
| 11.00 – 12.30 | Session 3: What are landlords doing to help? What problems are arising? |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch |
| 13.30 – 15.00 | Session 4: Who are most vulnerable? How can communities help? |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | Session 5: What messages can we take away from this event? |
| 15.30 | End and afternoon tea |