

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping – Who Cares?

Half Day Conference for the Private Sector

Liverpool Parish Church

Chapel Street (opposite Liver Building)

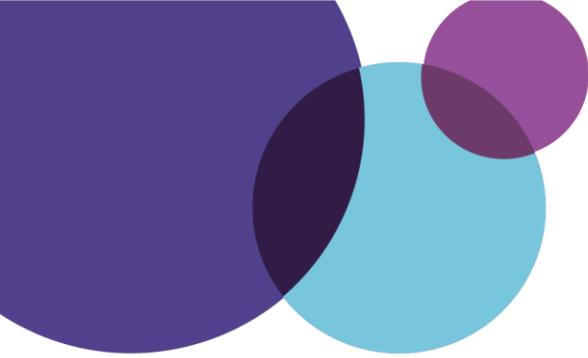
Thursday 4th April 2019, 9.30 – 12.30



LIVERPOOL PARISH CHURCH
OUR LADY & ST NICHOLAS



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
For Merseyside



Why should you attend?

There is much good work across the City and Region on the issue of homelessness and rough sleeping. Liverpool City Council has led with its *Always Room Inside* initiative, and the Combined Authority is progressing a pilot, *Housing First*, which has had great success overseas. In addition, there is an array of charitable and voluntary sector organizations which undertake excellent front-line work with homeless people and rough sleepers.

When stakeholders gather around the table, the private sector is often absent from this debate. This is despite the fact that:

- Homelessness is an issue which affects people from all backgrounds
- Homelessness has a negative impact on the City economy
- Homelessness reflects badly on Liverpool as a destination and as a community.

Businesses in the Liverpool City Region have a vested interest in developing a greater understanding of this issue and should have the opportunity to engage. They have a positive contribution to make.

Purpose of the event?

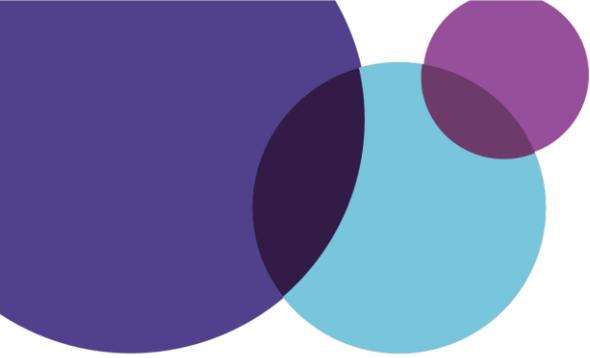
What more can be done by whom? Through speakers, dialogue and participation the conference is structured around the themes of:

- Understanding
- Engagement
- Action

Throughout the morning we shall scope the nature of the challenge and map the local response and vision for the future. The final part of the Conference is to identify areas of action and invite the private sector to help shape how a shared participation in the response to homelessness and rough sleeping might look to support the work already being done.

Who is involved in the Conference?

Organizers: The initiative behind this Conference came from the **Community Foundation for Merseyside's** twentieth anniversary year, in which they celebrate a successful journey which has seen over £40 million handed out to good causes across the region. CFM has teamed up with **Liverpool Parish Church**, which has been at the centre of social justice issues in the City Centre for centuries, and is a public space open and accessible to all. We are joined by Professor Michael Parkinson, who, as Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor for Civic Engagement, represents the **University of Liverpool**. The University is a major anchor institution which is both committed to and engaged in the City. It is committed to tackling social issues directly and through thought leadership.



Participants: Leading figures from Liverpool City Council and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority are participating in this Conference, along with the Liverpool Echo, Merseyside Police, Liverpool One, the Liverpool BID Company, and Liverpool Football Club. There will also be significant participation by a number of business and private sector companies; the charitable and voluntary sector will be represented by a number of organizations which provide front-line services. We will also hear directly from the voice of homeless people.

Audience: We are a community, and the business sector is part of that commitment to living as neighbours. The invitation to participate has gone out through Professional Liverpool, the Institute of Directors, the Liverpool BID Company, and also other channels.

Homeless Jesus Sculpture: a visible challenge

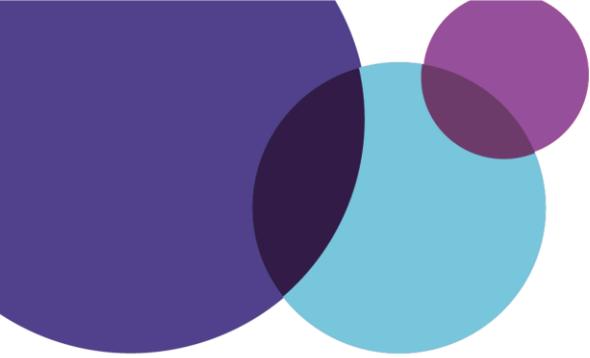


The Homeless Jesus sculpture is being placed deliberately in city centres, often in ‘global’ cities such as Liverpool and Manchester. It is therefore a world-wide project which addresses a world-wide concern. Like all artworks there is an inherent vulnerability; like Christ himself the piece carries the risk of being ignored or objected to. There is no easy or comfortable response to the person of the suffering Christ or to the suffering of people around us. In this work there are no other figures represented so we ourselves are those other people in the picture who can respond, perhaps by ‘sitting at Jesus’s feet’. The response might also be how we connect with those marginalised others. Today, these might be the millions of displaced people across the world as much as homeless people on our own streets.

The installation of this sculpture in St Nicholas’ Church Gardens is part of the public visible commitment by the Parish Church to the issue of homelessness

The Conference will end at 12.30 with the unveiling of Liverpool’s own *Homeless Jesus* in St Nicholas’ Church Gardens. The homeless community will be involved in the unveiling of the sculpture, and it will be blessed and dedicated by the Bishop of Liverpool.

GROWING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER



This will be a high-profile event which will attract a high level of media participation. This is an important opportunity for the private sector to show that they are informed and committed.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping – Who Cares?

Half Day Conference 4 April 2019

Chair: Professor Michael Parkinson

9.30am Registration / Coffee / Networking

10.00am Part I: Understanding

Welcome and introduction:

Crispin Pailing (Liverpool Parish Church); Rae Brooke (Community Foundation for Merseyside)

- i) National context (Matt Downie, Director of Policy and External Affairs, Crisis)

- ii) Lived experience (A survivor of homelessness)

10.30am Part II: Engagement

- i) Balancing meeting immediate need with long-term intervention.

Mayor of Liverpool and the challenge for LAs

Metro Mayor and the city region opportunities

- ii) Panel discussion

Peter Moore, CEO, LFC

Bronwen Rapley, CEO, Onward Homes

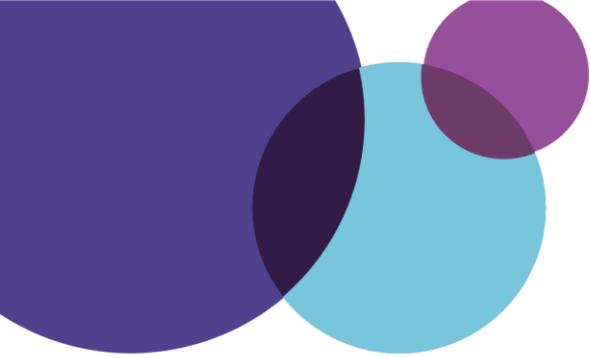
Andy Cooke, Chief Constable, Merseyside Police

Steve Connolly, Estate Director, Liverpool One

Denise Banks, Commercial Director, Gaskells Waste

- iii) Audience input

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Continued...

11.30am Part III: Action

- i) Engaging with the panel, we hear different speakers on ideas for the future, including:
 - Liam Thorp (Political Editor, Liverpool Echo) on managing public profile
 - Bill Addy (Liverpool BID Company) on Street Support
 - Rae Brooke (Community Foundation for Merseyside) on establishing a Task Force for a Business Charter

- ii) Conclusion and future action points– Prof. Michael Parkinson

12.30 Unveiling of *Homeless Jesus* sculpture in Gardens



Head office:

Community Foundations
Third Floor
Stanley Buildings
43 Hanover Street
Liverpool ONE estate
Liverpool
L1 3DN

Email: info@cflm.email
Phone: 0330 440 4900



The Community Foundation's Stanley Building offices at Liverpool ONE have been generously donated by the Grosvenor Liverpool Fund



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