

CONFERENCE REPORT

Committee: Social Work Committee

Subject: Urban Divisions and Urban Solutions
Tackling Poverty and Inclusion in Urban Areas

Conference Organiser: Neil Stewart Associates

Venue: London

Conference Fee: £276.13 (incl. VAT)

Date (s): 26 February 1997

Recommendation: Not suitable for members to attend

Urban Divisions & Urban Solutions

Tackling Poverty and Exclusion in Urban Areas

Wednesday 26th February 1997
Church House Conference Centre,
London SW1

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to invite you to register for the forthcoming conference **Urban Divisions & Urban Solutions** which will focus on the problems of, and solutions to, social division within urban areas in the UK.

The issue of urban divisions has become increasingly relevant throughout the UK and the recently published London Research Centre report *The Capital Divided, mapping poverty and social exclusion in London*, sponsored by Peabody Trust, highlighted a situation in the Capital in which one in six of the population are claiming income support and deprived and affluent areas - often situated side by side - display very different social characteristics. The problems of increasing social divisions are no longer confined simply to inner-city areas, but are spread throughout all major conurbations.

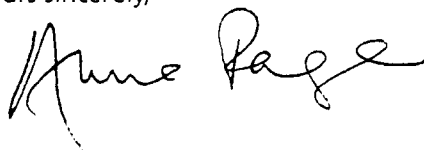
This conference will bring together central and local Government, and their agencies, with the housing associations, voluntary organisations and others who have a key role to play in dealing with these problems, to look for solutions at local and national levels. The day will include four focus seminars providing a forum for the discussion and dissemination of ideas. These are:

- Employment, Income and Benefit Dependency
- Health and Lifestyle
- Housing and Homelessness
- Education and the Economy

The conference will be addressed by Sir Paul Beresford MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of the Environment, Frank Dobson MP, Shadow Environment Secretary and a range of other speakers. Enclosed with this letter is the conference brochure providing a full agenda, further details of the day and a booking form. Should you have any queries about any aspect of the event please contact Jonny Popper in the conference office on 0171-222-1280.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I look forward to seeing you on the 26th February 1997.

Yours sincerely,



ANNE PAGE

Conference Producers

Neil Stewart Associates

11 Dartmouth Street tel 0171-222 1280
London SW1H 9BL fax 0171-222 1278

Hosted by:



in conjunction with:

ALG
ASSOCIATION OF
LONDON
GOVERNMENT

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Urban Divisions & Urban Solutions

**Tackling Poverty and
Exclusion in Urban Areas**

Wednesday 26th February 1997
Church House Conference Centre,
London SW1

A one-day national conference to bring together the Local Authority Councillors and officers, Government departments and agencies, voluntary organisations and charities, TECs and other interest groups who have a role in tackling poverty, benefit dependency, social exclusion and in providing employment in urban centres. Specific issues including employment, income, health, housing, homelessness, education and the economy will be examined and solutions - from national policy to local priorities - will be discussed and presented.

Speakers Include:

Sir Paul Beresford MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of the Environment

Frank Dobson MP, Shadow Environment Secretary

The Lord Paul, Chairman, Caparo Group

Sir William Benyon, Chairman, Peabody Trust

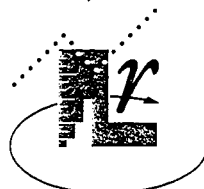
Cllr Toby Harris, Chair, Association of London Government

Anne Page, Chief Executive, London Research Centre

Chris Holmes, Director, Shelter

Chris Pond, Director, Low Pay Unit

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AGENDA

- 09:00** **Registration; Tea & Coffee**
- 09:30** **Introduction & Welcome**
 Cllr Toby Harris, Chair, Association of
 London Government
- SESSION 1: URBAN DIVISIONS
 Chair: Cllr Tony Colman, Chair,
 London Research Centre
- 09:35** **Keynote Speech: Tackling Urban Divisions**
 Frank Dobson MP, Shadow Environment
 Secretary
- 09:55** **Questions**
- 10:10** **The Situation in London -
 A City Divided**
 Presentation by Phillip Edwards, Principal
 Research Officer, London Research Centre
- 10:25** **The Effect of Poverty and
 Unemployment - the Business Angle**
 The Lord Paul, Chairman, Caparo Group
- 10:40** **International Aspects of Social Division**
 Speaker from the European Commission
- 10:55** **Questions**
- 11:10** **Tea & Coffee**
- SESSION 2: POVERTY AND INEQUALITY;
 FOCUS WORKSHOPS
- 11.30** **Delegates choose to attend one of
 four workshops,**
 which will assess specific issues in more detail
 and are designed to be participatory for
 discussion and dissemination of ideas.
- 1. Employment and Income**
 Chris Pond, Director, Low Pay Unit (CHAIR)
 Joel O'Loughlin, Chair, Urban Forum
 Speaker from the TUC
 - 2. Health and Lifestyle**
 Speaker to be confirmed (CHAIR)
 Dr Bobby Jacobson, Director of Public
 Health, East London and City
 Health Authority

3. Housing and Homelessness

George Barlow, Chief Executive, Peabody Trust (CHAIR)
Julia Atkins, Director of Housing and Social Research,
 London Research Centre
Chris Holmes, Director, Shelter

4. Education and the Economy

Patricia Rowan, Editor, Times Educational
 Supplement (CHAIR)
Jeremy Long, Chief Executive, Central London TEC
Jeremy Crook, Black Training & Enterprise Group
Cay Stratton, Advisor, London First

13:00 Lunch

SESSION 3: URBAN SOLUTIONS
 Chair: **Anne Page**, Chief Executive,
 London Research Centre

14:00 Report from the Morning Workshops

Summary of the workshop discussions presented by the
 workshop Chairs

14:20 Solutions from Europe

Cllr Sally Powell, Member, European Committee
 of the Regions

14:30 An Employment Strategy

Cllr Toby Harris

14:45 Future Roles for the Voluntary Sector

Lorraine Roberts, Head of Policy, London Voluntary
 Services Council

15:00 Questions**15:15 Tea & Coffee**

SESSION 4: NATIONAL POLICIES FOR REGENERATION
 Chair: **Sir William Benyon**, Chairman, Peabody Trust

15:30 Keynote Speech - Towards the Millennium

Sir Paul Beresford MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of
 State, Department of the Environment

15:50 Questions**16:10 Closing Address**

Sir William Benyon

16:15 Close - Tea & coffee will be available

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE:

This conference will deal with divisions in cities. During the last two decades, every urban centre has suffered from the effects of social division. The scale and extent of this now means that it is no longer simply a small 'inner-city' phenomenon, but a widespread problem that threatens to destabilise local and national economies.

All politicians, Government departments, regional and local organisations and voluntary groups seek to mitigate poverty, benefit dependency and social exclusion. This conference will assess these issues and consider possible solutions.

Specifically, this conference will:

- present the findings of a detailed study by the London Research Centre, part-funded by Peabody Trust, examining the scale of poverty and social exclusion London-wide and in local areas. The study compares the situation today with a decade earlier. This research will be used as a case study for other urban areas in the UK.
- assess the impact of unemployment and deprivation on affected communities, business and the economy.
- compare the scale of problems in London and the UK with other cities in Europe.
- examine in detail specific issues associated with poverty and discuss potential solutions:
 - employment, income and benefit dependency
 - health and lifestyle
 - housing and homelessness
 - employment and the economy
- discuss in smaller groups potential solutions to the problems raised and report to the full delegate audience.
- consider the changing roles of the voluntary sector in future policies to tackle social exclusion.
- consider planned employment strategies for urban areas, how they can be formulated and what effect they can have.
- hear from both Government and Opposition speakers on their approaches to these sensitive issues.

This event will bring together key organisations and individuals to discuss and examine fundamental economic and social problems facing the UK as we approach the millennium.

WHO WILL ATTEND

- Local Authority Council Leaders and Councillors
- Local Authority Chairs of Committees
- Local Authority Directors of Services
- Central Government Department Heads
- Government Agencies and Organisations
- DSS Offices and Job Centres
- Housing Association Chief Executives, Directors and Chairs
- Charities and Voluntary Organisations
- City Challenges, Enterprise Agencies, Urban Development Corporations and other Regeneration Projects
- Health Authorities and Trusts, Public Health Departments, CHCs
- Academics and Educational Establishments
- Commercial Organisations
- Banking and Finance Organisations
- Local Government Associations
- TECs and Business Links
- Chambers of Commerce
- Consumer or Special Interest Groups
- Citizens Advice Bureaux
- Trade Unions
- Trade Associations

WHO WILL EXHIBIT

- Economic Development Agencies
- Housing Associations
- Commercial Organisations
- Charities and Voluntary or Special Interest Groups
- Specific Borough or Local Development Projects
- TECs, Business Links or Chambers of Commerce