

Resolution Date: 12th June 2018

Resolution Title: Homelessness Agencies and Deportations

This branch notes that a Judicial Review has confirmed that the policy of deporting homeless rough sleepers as part of the Home Office instigated 'hostile environment' for migrants was unlawful, as our branch had warned.

We note that lawyers from the Public Interest Law Unit have made complaints about St Mungos conduct in working with immigration enforcement teams to the Charity Commission and the Information Commissioners Office.

We note that the branch, and reps in St Mungos, warned management that close co-operation and information sharing with immigration enforcement teams posed ethical, legal and reputational issues for the organisations. We also pointed out that this practice could make future work with hard to reach groups more difficult and increase health and safety risks.

We resolve:

- to continue to support our members in St Mungos and other homelessness agencies in seeking to provide ethical client centred services, sometimes against the mis-leadership of the agencies they work for.
- to campaign for a serious increase in funding for agencies working with rough sleepers. Official figures show an increase in rough sleeping of 169% since 2010 while there has been a reduction in the number of bed spaces for rough sleepers. The numbers dying on the street or in temporary accommodation have more than doubled over the last five years.

Our campaign will call for:

- Increased campaigning in support of Unite's existing policy of opposition to 'payment by results' funding methods such as 'Social Impact Bonds' which introduce instability and perverse incentives – services should be fully funded.
- Local authorities and the GLA to abandon 'payment by results' funding of homelessness services.
- A review of information sharing to ensure client confidentiality is maintained. Reviews should be implemented by homelessness agencies and funding bodies.

Mover: Jack Jeffrey