

NEWS RELEASE

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Awards celebrate vital work being done to support vulnerable people in Wales

Last night, the 8th annual Promoting Independence Awards (PIAs) celebrated the excellent work being carried out to help marginalised and at-risk people in Wales to live as independently as they can, and build a brighter future after a crisis or stressful period in their lives.

A joint event by Cymorth Cymru and Welsh Local Authorities, the PIAs recognise innovation and excellence in the homelessness, housing-related support and supported living sector, and offer an opportunity to reward the hard work and dedication of the organisations and individuals involved.

This year the awards attracted more than 70 nominations, demonstrating the wide range of services that are available to support people who are marginalised, isolated or experiencing housing crisis. A particularly high number of entries in the 'Working in Partnership' category highlighted a growing appetite in Wales for collaborative and co-productive methods of working.

This year's winners are:

- 1. Working in Partnership**
Cyrenians' ReTreat Project
- 2. Investing in Staff**
Clwyd Alyn Housing Association –
Chirk Court Care Home
- 3. Homelessness Prevention**
Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC
Specialist Housing Solution service
for offenders
- 4. Involvement and Engagement**
Rhondda Housing Association's
Find Your Future project
- 5. Supported Living and Care**
Dimensions Cymru
- 6. Trailblazer**
Calon's Residential Leasing
Project
- 7. Employment, Training and Skills**
Cyrenians Employment & Training
Ltd
- 8. Innovation in Technology**
Mirus
- 9. Empowering Survivors**
Monmouthshire Women's Aid
(WAIMON)
- 10. Top Team**
Clwyd Alyn Housing Association -
Plas Bod Llwyd Care Home
- 11. Personal Achievement**
Lisa Pritchard, supported by
Cadwyn
- 12. Inspirational Colleague**
Jonathan 'Ozzy' Aldridge, The
Wallich

Cymorth Director, Auriol Miller said *'The Promoting Independence Awards are a great opportunity to celebrate all that has been achieved by the sector over the past year.'*

Despite many and considerable challenges, Cymorth's members and partners have continued to work to develop new and better ways to help some of the most marginalised

and at risk people in our communities to overcome barriers and fulfil their potential – and this is reflected in the quality of this year’s entries from over 40 organisations.

It was a privilege to host the ceremony and reward the passion and dedication demonstrated by all the nominees and winners.’

Cymorth and Welsh local authorities would like to congratulate all of the winners, and the many nominees.

ENDS

Notes to editor

1. Cymorth Cymru is the umbrella body for organisations working with marginalised and at risk people in Wales. Our members assist people to find and keep a home, working with people who are at risk or already experiencing housing crisis. Types of services include sheltered accommodation for older people; refuges for women and men fleeing domestic abuse; supported housing; hostel accommodation; floating support delivered to people living in the community; and extra care schemes. www.cymorthcymru.org.uk
2. No public money has been used for the planning or staging of this event, with all costs being met by private sponsorship and attendance fees.
3. Event sponsors include Merthyr Valleys Homes, United Welsh, Rhondda Housing Association, Digartref Ynys Môn, Practice Solutions, Gwalia, Carers Trust Wales, The Open University in Wales, Creo, Welsh Womens Aid, Clwyd Alyn Housing Association, Gofal, North Wales Housing and Carrick.
4. For media enquiries, case studies and photographs from the PIAs please contact
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