

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**25 November 2015**

### **Spending Review will hit the invisible, the voiceless and the vulnerable, says Cymorth Cymru**

Today's Spending Review, delivered by Chancellor George Osborne, will hit the invisible, voiceless and vulnerable the hardest says Welsh charity Cymorth Cymru.

With progress on mental health, the NHS and social care funding, today's announcements at first glance look positive for Wales. However, Cymorth Cymru, the umbrella body for providers of homelessness, support and care services in Wales, fear that the overall impact of the budget will most harm those who are out of sight of the public.

Welfare spending continues to be a key concern. The suggested move of tax credits into Universal Credit risks shifting the burden to those who are unable to work, and people who are struggling with mental health problems or disabilities could find themselves struggling to get by.

Cymorth is particularly concerned about the impact any changes to benefits will have on young people. There are many vulnerable young people in precarious positions who rely on the welfare state to help them improve their situation and move towards a more positive, secure future.

As part of the Review, the Chancellor gave local authorities the freedom to raise funds for adult social care in England. This will not go far enough to raise the money needed to meet the shortfall in adult social care funding and Cymorth will be calling on Welsh Government to take appropriate action to address this.

In regards to health, the announcement of an increase in NHS funding in England by £6bn next year is a positive one. A small proportion of the money that comes to Wales as a result of this announcement could be used to restore funding for the Supporting People Programme. This is a key Welsh Government Programme which acts as a safety net for some of the most vulnerable people in Wales. Additional investment in the programme could help to mitigate the effects of some of today's budget announcements.

Auriol Miller, Director of Cymorth Cymru, said,

“Although some announcements are welcome, this budget does not look like an honest reflection of reality. Further cuts are buried behind departmental savings with no indication of what exactly will be lost in public services as a result.

Tax credit changes have been cancelled, but instead the burden will switch to those receiving other welfare benefits.

We are concerned that the budget sounds good on the surface, but will deliver yet more problems to those living on the edges of society. In the long run, that will be bad for all of us.”

**ENDS**

#### **Notes**

1. Cymorth Cymru is the representative body for providers of homelessness, housing-related support and social care services in Wales. Our members support people to live independently, managing their own lives in their own homes. Cymorth Cymru Director, Auriol Miller, is Chair of the Research

& Evaluation Steering Group that oversaw the Welsh Government feasibility study.

[www.cymorthcymru.org.uk](http://www.cymorthcymru.org.uk)

2. The Supporting People (SP) Programme is a Welsh Government programme that supports more than 60,000 people each year to live as independently as they can. It funds a variety of services to support a wide range of marginalised people at risk of housing crisis, including people at risk of homelessness; families fleeing domestic abuse; people dealing with mental or physical health problems, or learning disabilities; ex-service personnel; care leavers; and older people in need of support. <http://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/services-and-support/supporting-people/?lang=en>
3. A Welsh Government report published yesterday indicates that there is potential to accurately demonstrate the significant savings the Supporting People Programme makes to the NHS in Wales.

<http://www.cymorthcymru.org.uk/en/news-blog/news/huge-opportunity-demonstrate-savings-supporting-people-makes-health-service-wales>

Previous research has estimated that for every £1 spent on Supporting People services, a further £2.30 is saved for the public purse.

See our briefing for more information on Supporting People and its benefits

[http://www.cymorthcymru.org.uk/files/5414/4844/9759/Lets\\_Keep\\_Supporting\\_People\\_Spending\\_Review\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.cymorthcymru.org.uk/files/5414/4844/9759/Lets_Keep_Supporting_People_Spending_Review_Briefing.pdf)

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