

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**12 noon, 29 July 2016**

### **Cymorth Cymru Director to depart for prestigious Institute for Welsh Affairs**

After almost three years as Director of Cymorth Cymru, Auriol Miller will be moving on to a new role of Director at the Institute for Welsh Affairs in the Autumn.

During her time at Cymorth Cymru, Auriol has continued to move the organisation forward, increasing engagement with members and ensuring the organisation has been proactive in responding to the challenges facing them. Auriol leaves Cymorth Cymru with clear priorities for influence and change, endorsed by a strong mandate from members.

Auriol said, “I will miss Cymorth Cymru hugely. I have loved every minute of it, working with members that support the most vulnerable and marginalised people across Wales. The work I am most proud of is campaigning to protect the Supporting People budget last year – which we hope to do again this year. I am delighted that during my time as Director we have made real progress on the importance of robust research and data to inform policy. I am also immensely proud of our work reaching out to and connecting across other sectors and with partners across the UK – partnership working is very important to Cymorth, and I have worked hard to embed that approach in the way we work.”

As Director, Auriol has also worked to streamline Cymorth’s internal processes. There has been a rebrand and a new website to oversee, and she has supported the Board as it refreshed governance. In addition, three new independent members of the Board have been recruited, increasing transparency and accountability to members.

There are still challenges ahead for the housing and care sectors. Auriol said, “This year we worked hard to represent the concerns of Learning Disability providers, who were worried about the impact of the new Living Wage and additional pressures such as sleep-in and travel judgements. The awareness we brought to this issue has helped to avert an immediate disaster – but we are under no illusions that this issue is going away. Cymorth will be continuing to work hard to represent our members.”

Auriol said, “Whilst I am delighted to be joining the IWA to lead the next stage of its development, I am sad that I will not be part of the future of Cymorth. It has a strong future ahead of it, representing members in a sector that has often struggled to be heard. I am sure that the team I leave behind will continue to passionately represent our members.”

Ewan Hilton, Chief Executive of Gofal and Chair of the Cymorth Cymru Board said, “Auriol has been a strong voice for our sector and will be missed. Cymorth’s policy work is clear and focused, and feedback on the events programme is consistently positive. She has worked in partnership with Welsh Government and others on linking Supporting People

data with use of NHS services – which was crucial in protecting the Supporting People budget. Personally I have really enjoyed working with Auriol; her passion and determination to make Wales a better place for the most marginalised has been inspiring. She leaves Cymorth in good shape for the future and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you.”

Auriol will be with Cymorth Cymru until mid October. The Board is meeting today to plan a course of action for the organisation to ensure that there is a stable and sustainable transition between Directors.

Any immediate queries should be addressed to [ewanhilton@gofal.org.uk](mailto:ewanhilton@gofal.org.uk) or to [auriomiller@cymorthcymru.org.uk](mailto:auriomiller@cymorthcymru.org.uk).

Work at Cymorth Cymru will continue without change.

-ENDS-

#### Notes to editors

1. Cymorth Cymru is the representative body for homelessness, housing-related support and social care services in Wales. Our members support people to live safely and independently, managing their own lives in their own homes. Types of services include sheltered accommodation for older people; refuges for families fleeing domestic abuse; supported housing; hostel accommodation; floating support delivered to people living in the community; and extra care schemes. [www.cymorthcymru.org.uk](http://www.cymorthcymru.org.uk)
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