

## NEWS RELEASE

**8 December 2015**

### **Protection of ‘vital safety net’ for vulnerable people welcomed by representative body Cymorth Cymru**

Today’s Welsh Government draft budget announcement that funding for the Supporting People Programme will be protected from cuts in 2016/17 has been welcomed by Cymorth Cymru, the representative body for homelessness, support and social care services in Wales.

The Supporting People Programme is a flagship Welsh Government programme which plays a key role in tackling and preventing homelessness and supports vulnerable people to live independently through projects running across the country.

The Programme supports over 60,000 people in Wales each year, and around three quarters of a million lives have been transformed through the programme during the past twelve years.

In April of this year, Cymorth and Community Housing Cymru launched the ‘Let’s keep on Supporting People’ campaign, urging Welsh Government to protect funding for this vital safety net for vulnerable and marginalised people in Wales. Today, it has been confirmed that the Programme’s funding will be protected at 2015/16 levels, with no further cuts in 2016/17.

Auriol Miller, Director of Cymorth Cymru, welcomed the news.

*“For many people, and for many reasons, maintaining a safe, secure home is not always possible without support. Supporting People services help people to build, or rebuild, the kind of lives we all want for ourselves, our friends and our families.*

*In continued difficult times for the sector, any further cuts to Supporting People could have had disastrous consequences for service providers and the people they support. This is why today’s announcement is so welcome.*

*We are absolutely delighted that Welsh Government have recognised Supporting People as a key priority in next year’s budget, and we are grateful for the support that Communities Minister Lesley Griffiths, and the other parties in the Assembly, continue to show this vital programme.*

*However, we will not rest on our laurels. We know that Supporting People is a vital preventative measure, reducing pressure on the NHS and social services, and recent research<sup>1</sup> has paved the way for us to clearly evidence this. We will continue to work to demonstrate the impact of Supporting People, making the case that increased funding for the programme will reap benefits for us all.”*

**ENDS**

## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> Supporting People data linking feasibility study <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/supporting-people-data-linking-feasibility-study/?lang=en>

1. The Supporting People (SP) Programme is a flagship 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. See our briefing on Supporting People here [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)
2. Cymorth Cymru is the umbrella body for providers of homelessness, housing related support and social care services in Wales. Our members provide a wide range of support to enable people to live as independently as they possibly can, or build a positive future after a difficult period in their lives. We act as the 'voice of the sector', working in partnership with members, policy makers and other stakeholders to prevent and alleviate homelessness and improve the quality of life for people who are marginalised or at risk of housing crisis across Wales. [www.cymorthcymru.org.uk](http://www.cymorthcymru.org.uk)
3. Community Housing Cymru (CHC) is the representative body for housing associations and community mutuals in Wales, which are all not-for profit organisations. Our members work closely with local government, third sector organisations and the Welsh Government to provide a range of services in communities across Wales. Our conference, training and networking opportunities, along with our publications and website, ensure that the Welsh social housing movement is kept fully informed. [www.chcymru.org.uk](http://www.chcymru.org.uk)
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