

Embargo: 00:01 Friday 3rd August 2018

Welsh housing and support providers take a stand on **Housing Matters Day of Action**

On Friday 3rd August organisations across the length and breadth of Wales will be showing their support for the **Housing Matters campaign** to protect funding for homelessness and housing-related support services. People who use, deliver and manage services will be taking part in a range of activities throughout the day, including:

- Holding events involving staff, tenants and people who use support services
- Hosting visits from local and regional Assembly Members
- Sharing photos and video messages in support of the campaign on Twitter using #HousingMattersWales
- Highlighting the impact of housing and support services on people's lives

This Day of Action highlights support for the [Housing Matters report](#), which was published in June by ten national housing and support organisations - Cymorth Cymru, Community Housing Cymru, Welsh Women's Aid, Rough Sleepers Cymru, Shelter Cymru, Tai Pawb, EROSH South Wales, CIH Cymru, Housing Justice Cymru and the founding members of End Youth Homelessness Cymru.

The Housing Matters report **highlights concerns about the Welsh Government's proposal to create a new Early Intervention: Prevention and Support (EIPS) Grant in 2019/20**, which would merge two homelessness grants (Supporting People and the Homelessness Prevention Grant) with funding for non-housing services such as childcare and health visitors. There is a fear that budget pressures and community opposition to homelessness and housing-related support schemes could lead to a reduction in spending on these services.

However, the report also **makes the case for a new ring-fenced Homelessness and Housing-Related Support Grant**, which has received strong support from people working in third sector support providers, housing associations and local authorities:

"It does not make sense to merge homelessness and SP funding with non-housing grants. This alternative solution has support from many people working in local authority homelessness and SP teams." (Local authority staff member)

"There was a time when we would have only campaigned for the status quo - i.e. SP ringfenced on its own. But the sector understands that the Welsh Government wants to reduce the number of grants it manages - so we have tried to offer up a constructive alternative that helps them do this - but doesn't put services for vulnerable people at risk." (3rd sector support provider)

"We urge AMs to back this proposal, which will safeguard survivors and the future of refuges, and contribute to Government's commitment to sustainably fund domestic and sexual violence specialist services." (VAWDASV service provider)

"We need to have more concrete assurances about the future funding of supported accommodation - otherwise our lenders won't invest and we will not be able to provide the housing stock." (Housing association)

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Cymorth Cymru Director Katie Dalton said:

“Over the past few weeks I have been travelling the length and breadth of Wales, talking to housing and support providers about the Housing Matters campaign. I have been blown away by their passion for preventing homelessness and their dedication to supporting people to live independently in their communities.

“However, they also have been very clear that the proposed EIPS supergrant poses an unnecessary risk to achieving these aims. Today, I am delighted that so many of them are showing their support for the alternative solution we have outlined in the Housing Matters report.

We are also pleased that Ministers have committed to considering our proposal for a ring-fenced Homelessness and Housing Related Support Grant and hope they make the right decision in the coming weeks.”

-Ends-

Notes for Editor

Housing Matters report

- You can find out more about the Welsh Government’s proposal, the Housing Matters alternative solution, and download the Housing Matters report [here](#).

Interviews

- **Cymorth Cymru Director Katie Dalton** is available for pre-recorded and live interviews all this week. Contact katiedalton@cymorthcymru.org.uk or 07807 137505 or 02920 553687 to arrange interviews.
- We have contacted our members and have a list of **local housing and support organisations** who would be willing to host the media at their projects on Friday and be interviewed by journalists. Please get in touch with Jordan Brewer at jordanbrewer@cymorthcymru.org.uk or 02920 553687 if you want to organise a visit and interviews with local projects.

About the funding

- The Supporting People Programme aims to alleviate or prevent homelessness and help vulnerable people to live as independently as possible. Services include homeless hostels, domestic abuse refuges, other types of supported accommodation schemes, and tenancy support delivered to people in their own homes. The Programme supports approximately 60,000 each year, including vulnerable young people and care leavers, older people, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, people fleeing domestic abuse, people with mental health problems, people with learning disabilities and people with substance misuse problems. This budget is ring-fenced and currently stands at £124million – however this will no longer be protected if the Welsh Government merges it with other grants to create the EIPS supergrant.
- The Homelessness Prevention Grant provides funding to local authorities for the delivery of services to prevent and relieve homelessness in line with statutory duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.