



UK Spending Review 2015 and Supporting People funding

The Supporting People Programme is the essential safety net and preventative programme for Wales. It is a national programme. It works with old and young, across all barriers. Quite simply, it changes lives.

The programme continues to enjoy widespread cross-party support. It is easy to see why. With projects in every constituency and region, members can see the impact of the programme every day. But it is at risk. Although the Welsh Government have been strong supporters of the programme, austerity has put funding at risk. In 2015-16 the programme received a £10m cut. This has left the programme vulnerable to sudden shocks or increases in demand.

We are asking all Assembly Members: whatever the outcome of the Spending Review today, please commit to protecting the Supporting People budget.

'The past year has been the hardest of my life, but also the best. I would never have managed without support services – I guarantee I would be on the streets and my children would have been placed in care.' Kerry Manning, who received support from *The Wallich* in 2014–15

‘Before I lived in supported housing, my life was rather chaotic. I’d spent numerous times in hospital under section and lived a life of crime and drugs. Now, my mental health has stabilised, I have managed to stay away from drugs and crime and totally changed my life.’ Pete lived in a supported housing scheme run by *North Wales Housing*, in 2014-15.

It makes financial sense

- £2.38 estimated saving for every £1 spent, according to a 2010 report, *How The Supporting People Programme In Carmarthenshire Saves Money For Other Areas Of The Public Purse*.
- An indicative, early analysis of Welsh Government research published on the 24 November 2015 has found that GP / A&E usage can reduce in client groups after receiving Supporting People services. This is attached for you.
- A recent document analysing case studies using a widely shared cost-benefit analysis tool has been published by the Gwent Regional Collaborative Committee, *Supporting People: Improving Lives, Preventing Costs*. We have attached it for your consideration.

It is the right thing to do

- The Programme helps people who have nowhere else to turn.
- It works with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- It supports people who are fleeing domestic abuse.
- It works with those who are experiencing poor mental health.
- It helps reduce dependence on alcohol or drugs.
- It helps maintain the independence of older people, keeping them out of long-term institutions.
- It enables people with learning disabilities to live on their own terms for longer.
- It can get people back into employment, education or training.
- It can save lives, and change lives.

Alan’s Story

Alan is a retired veteran who had alcohol problems and was at risk from people he knew. He was supported to move to a new location. Now, he is benefiting from £37.50 a week floating support. This is helping to avoid potential additional costs: £648 per incident of anti social behaviour; £647 per incident of crime; £7,095 per complex eviction; £2,656 per homeless application, and more. For more costs saved please see the attached document of case studies.

Let’s Keep Supporting People. #supportingpeoplewales