

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until Sunday 1 March 2017

Former NUS Wales President confirmed by Cymorth Cymru as new Interim Director

Cymorth Cymru is delighted to welcome Katie Dalton, former NUS Wales President, as Interim Director.

Katie has a background in public affairs and policy in a variety of sectors. As NUS Wales President she led the ‘Students Say Yes’ campaign as part of the 2011 referendum on Welsh law-making powers, and campaigned successfully to protect Welsh students from paying £9,000 tuition fees.

Since 2011, Katie has been the Policy and Public Affairs Manager for Gofal, a mental health charity and long-term member of Cymorth. Her time at Gofal has seen her influence a range of mental health, homelessness, housing and criminal justice policies.

Auriol Miller, the outgoing Director of Cymorth Cymru, said, “I am very pleased that Cymorth will have an interim Director with Katie’s experience of campaigns, influencing and with her considerable grasp of the sector’s policy priorities. She will be able to hit the ground running with the policy areas that most concern our members. We need someone who really gets the issues, and she is that person.”

Ewan Hilton, the Chair of Cymorth Cymru, said, “Katie has worked for Gofal for nearly five years now, and she has been extremely effective when it comes to making changes for those who are most vulnerable. I am sure she will bring the same impressive approaches to bear with Cymorth.”

There are still challenges ahead for the housing and care sectors. Katie Dalton said, “Working for a member of Cymorth I have seen the influence and impact they have had on our behalf and I am excited to have the opportunity to do the same. With the Local Housing Allowance Cap causing immense concern to the sector; with commissioning still needing reform, and with the Supporting People Programme requiring greater investment, there is still a lot more to do. I am really looking forward to engaging with the membership and getting stuck in.”

Auriol will be with Cymorth Cymru until 21 October. Katie Dalton will be seconded from Gofal, and will begin a handover period from early October to ensure that Cymorth’s policy work continues without disruption.

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
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