

**Cymorth Cymru presents:**

# Homelessness Symposium 2023

**9th November, Cardiff**



## Programme

### 9:30-9:40 **Welcome and opening remarks**

• **Katie Dalton, Cymorth Cymru**

### 9:40-10:30 **Health inclusion: Reducing inequalities and improving outcomes**

• **Fiona Kinghorn, Executive Director of Public Health, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board**

We are delighted to welcome Fiona Kinghorn, Chair of the National Strategic Health Inclusion Group, to open our conference. Established by the Ending Homelessness National Advisory Board, this group aims to support strategic coordination around public health and health care service provision, to reduce inequalities and improve health outcomes for marginalised groups, including people experiencing homelessness. Fiona is joining us to talk about her ambitions for the group and the approach taken in Cardiff and the Vale to meet the health needs of people experiencing homelessness.

### 10:30-11:00 **Housing Matters: Campaign update**

• **Katie Dalton, Cymorth Cymru**

The Welsh Government is preparing its Draft Budget for 2024/25 in what the First Minister has described as '*the toughest financial situation [they] have faced since devolution*'. In this session, Cymorth Cymru will outline how we are working with CHC and our members to make the case for investment in the Housing Support Grant. We will share the data we have collected from support providers and outline our campaign plans for the coming weeks, encouraging members to make their voices heard.

### 11:00-11:30 **Break**

### 11:30-12:30 **Homelessness and Disability in the UK**

• **Dr Beth Stone, University of Bristol**

• **Henry, Expert by Experience**

We are really looking forward to shining a light on the important, but often overlooked, issue of homelessness and disability. Dr Beth Stone, co-author of 'Homelessness and Disability in the UK' will present her recently published research, highlighting the barriers faced by disabled people in getting support and escaping homelessness, including difficulty getting a diagnosis, unsuitable environments, and a shortage of accessible housing. We are also thrilled to be joined by Henry, who will be sharing his expertise on this issue from a lived experience perspective.



**12:30-13:25 Lunch and networking**

**13:25-14:00 Ministerial address**

- **Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change, Welsh Government**

We are delighted to confirm that Julie James MS, the Minister for Climate Change, will be joining us for our first in-person conference since the pandemic. The Minister will speak about her ambitions to make homelessness rare, brief and unrepeated, including plans for radical legislative change to improve how we prevent and respond to homelessness in Wales.

**14:00-15:00 Ending Homelessness White Paper**

- **Hannah Fisher, Head of Homelessness Prevention Legislation, Welsh Government**

Following the Ministerial address, we will be joined by the Welsh Government's Head of Homelessness Prevention Legislation, Hannah Fisher, who will provide an overview of the recently published Ending Homelessness White Paper. Hannah will outline how the recommendations from the Expert Review Panel have influenced the proposals for legislative change, which seek to improve prevention, take a more trauma-informed and person-centred approach, and involve a wide range of public services.

**15:00-15:15 Break**

**15:15-16:15 Supported housing: The changing landscape in England and impact on Wales**

- **Sophie Boobis, Head of Policy and Research, Homeless Link**
- **Sara James, Head of Housing Support Policy and Delivery, Welsh Government**

The final session of our Homelessness Symposium will consider the changes to supported housing in England and the likely impact on services in Wales. We will be joined by Sophie Boobis of Homeless Link, who will talk about the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 and action to improve the quality of supported housing in England. Sara James of the Welsh Government will then outline the considerations for Wales and plans to develop supported housing standards in partnership with the sector.

**16:15-16:20 Closing remarks**

- **Katie Dalton, Cymorth Cymru**

