

CYNHADLEDD TAI YN GYNTAF CYMRU

HOUSING FIRST WALES CONFERENCE

13 AWST 2025 / 13 AUGUST 2025

AR-LEIN / ONLINE

Housing First Wales Conference 2025 Programme

10:00	Welcome and opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katie Dalton - Director, Cymorth Cymru• Alex Osmond - Housing First Policy Manager, Cymorth Cymru
10:05	Driving a national, cross-government approach to Housing First in Ireland <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rob Lowth - Director, Housing First National Office <p>In March 2022, the Housing First National Office was launched, taking responsibility for coordinating and driving a national, cross-government approach to Housing First in Ireland, as set out in the 'Housing First National Implementation Plan, 2022-2026'. We are excited to hear from Rob Lowth, Director of the National Office, about the work to extend Housing First to every county in Ireland.</p>
10:50	Break
11:15	Research into the effectiveness of Housing First Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Nicholas Pleace - Centre for Housing Policy, University of York <p>In February 2025, the Centre for Housing Policy, based at the University of York, published its evaluation of the Henry Smith Charity Strategic Grant Programme's support for six Housing First services across the UK, including one in Gwynedd. We are delighted to welcome Professor Nicholas Pleace, co-author of the research, to share the findings with us.</p>
12:15	Break
12:45	Increasing housing supply for Housing First <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claire Guest - Housing First Lettings Manager, Liverpool City Region• Gaynor Davies - Housing First Service Manager, Pobl <p>It is widely accepted that housing supply is a critical factor in the delivery of Housing First, but is also one of the biggest challenges facing the expansion of the model. We are really pleased to be joined by Claire Guest to share how this is being approached in the Liverpool City Region's Housing First project, as well as hearing from Pobl about how they are working with partners to improve access to housing for clients in Gwent.</p>

13:45	Break
14:00	<p>Recommendations on National Coordination of Housing First</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Fritz and Miranda Lio - Housing First Europe Hub <p>In July, the Housing First Europe Hub published a new report about the importance of national coordination in driving the development of Housing First. We are thrilled to welcome Laura and Miranda from the Hub, to outline how and why national coordination is essential, and share a series of recommendations to ensure that Housing First becomes a sustainable, system-wide solution.</p>
14:40	Break
15:00	<p>Maintaining fidelity: A reflective exercise between accreditations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abi Williams - Conwy Denbighshire Housing First • Alex Osmond - Housing First Policy Manager, Cymorth Cymru <p>As participation in our Housing First accreditation process grows, the Housing First Wales Network considered how to ensure that fidelity to the model continues in the years following accreditation. In this session, we will hear about the development of a reflective exercise, and the experience of the Conwy Denbighshire Housing First project, the first to undertake this new process.</p>
15:30	Close