

PROGRAMME

09:30 WELCOME

- Katie Dalton, Cymorth Cymru

09:35 EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE: THE IMPACT OF HOUSING FIRST

- Phil and Scotty, Experts by Experience

Housing First has a transformative impact on people's lives, and we are delighted to feature pre-recorded conversations with Phil and Scotty, who have been supported by Codi's Housing First team in Newport. We will hear about the impact of this model on their lives, and how this has led to them both playing a part in the development of the Homelessness Act.

09:45 KEYNOTE SPEECH: CABINET MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

- Siân Gwenllian MS

We are thrilled to welcome Siân Gwenllian to address our conference, in one of her first speeches to the homelessness sector since being appointed as Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning. The Plaid Cymru manifesto made a commitment to embedding a Housing First, trauma-informed and person-centred approach to tackling homelessness, and we are looking forward to hearing the Cabinet Minister outline her vision for this Senedd term.

10:15 SHOULD WE ASPIRE TO EMBED THE HOUSING FIRST PRINCIPLES IN WIDER HOMELESSNESS SERVICES? (AND WHAT WOULD GET IN OUR WAY?)

- Catherine Docherty, Salvation Army
- Sian Aldridge, The Wallich

While Housing First remains a distinct model, resourced to meet the needs of a specific cohort, some have questioned whether traditional homelessness services should take inspiration from this approach. We will discuss this – and what might be the policy, practical and financial barriers to achieving this – with two sector leaders in Wales, whose organisations oversee Housing First alongside more traditional services.

10:55 REFRESHMENT BREAK

11:15 YNYS MÔN HOUSING FIRST: REFLECTIONS SINCE ACCREDITATION

- Jo Parry, The Wallich
- Alex Osmond, Cymorth Cymru

Housing First Ynys Môn was awarded Housing First Wales Accreditation in 2022, after a rigorous assessment of the service's fidelity to the principles. Three years later they undertook the mid-point reflective exercise, considering the progress made since accreditation. In this session, we will hear about their reflections on the development of the service over the last three years.

11:45 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

HOUSING FIRST FOR WOMEN

- Alison Stokes, Thrive Women's Aid
- Stephanie Grimshaw, Welsh Women's Aid

This breakout session will reflect on Housing First for women, how it can meet the needs of women facing the greatest marginalisation and exclusion, and what needs to happen to make it a reality in Wales.

HOUSING FIRST FOR YOUTH

- Emma Evans, Llamau
- Alastair Dunford, Llamau

With Housing First for Youth being delivered in several locations across Wales, this breakout session will consider the progress so far, and what the future holds for young people facing the greatest challenges.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO PROGRESS HOUSING FIRST IN WALES?

- Cymorth Cymru

Since 2018, Housing First has grown steadily in Wales, with hundreds of people supported into tenancies. This breakout session will consider what is needed to take Housing First to the next level.

12:45 LUNCH AND NETWORKING

13:30 LEARNING FROM ACROSS THE BORDER: HOUSING FIRST IN GREATER MANCHESTER AND THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

- Emily Cole, Greater Manchester Housing First
- Sarah Goodwin, Liverpool City Region Housing First

The devolution of powers and funding from the UK Government to mayoral regions in England has seen Housing First develop and grow in several of these locations. We are delighted to welcome the programme leads for Housing First in Greater Manchester and the Liverpool City region, to share their reflections on the key enablers, challenges and successes facing Housing First in the north west of England.

14:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK

14:45 FILM SCREENING: BEYOND THE BRIDGE - A SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS

- A film by Don Sawyer and Tim Hashko

We are thrilled to be screening 'Beyond the Bridge', a documentary directed by Don Sawyer and Tim Hashko, which investigates successful homelessness response systems across the US. It follows the film crew as they drive over 40,000 miles to visit 12 cities, focusing on how communities achieve measurable results through Housing First, deep coordination, and compassionate support rather than just punitive measures.

16:15 FEEDBACK FROM FILM AND CLOSING REMARKS

16:30 CLOSE

