

**Cymorth Cymru**

**Annual Conference**

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Temple of Peace, Cardiff**



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# Your Recruiting Rock

## Wales' Leading Charity & Housing Recruitment Service.

We're on a mission to connect purpose-driven individuals with housing and homelessness services across Wales. Our passion lies in helping people focused organisations build strong, values-led teams.



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# Conference programme

9:30-  
9:40

## Welcome

- Katie Dalton - Director, Cymorth Cymru

9:40-  
10:30

## Keynote Speech

- Jayne Bryant MS - Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

We are delighted to welcome Jayne Bryant MS, Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government, to deliver the keynote speech to open our conference. Initially appointed to this portfolio in July, the Cabinet Secretary has spent the last six months getting to know the housing sector and understanding the opportunities and challenges ahead. With an increase in the Housing Support Grant announced in the Welsh Government's recent Draft Budget and the promise of a Homelessness Bill before the end of this Senedd term, we are looking forward to hearing from the Cabinet Secretary about her plans and ambitions for the year ahead.

10:30-  
11:15

## A vision for the homelessness and housing support workforce

- Clare Budden - Chair of Workforce Task and Finish Group

Our workforce is critical to the ambition of ending homelessness in Wales, and this is reflected in the commitment to develop a resilient and valued workforce in the Ending Homelessness Action Plan. In order to further this ambition, the ending Homelessness National Advisory Board established a Workforce Task and Finish Group, which has been developing recommendations to improve recognition, reward and support for frontline workers. In our second session of the day, we are really pleased to be joined by the group's chair, Clare Budden, who will outline the progress being made and provide an opportunity to shape the final recommendations.

## Break

11:45-  
12:30

## Experiences of racism and homelessness

- Georgia Leith - Senior Research & Evaluation Officer, Crisis

The publication of the Welsh Government's refreshed Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan emphasises the changes required to make Wales an anti-racist nation by 2030, including within the housing and homelessness sector. As part of our commitment to support this work, we are delighted to welcome Georgia Leith from Crisis to talk about their research about racism and homelessness. This research, shaped by a panel of Experts by Experience, uncovers the human stories behind the statistics that draw a direct link between race and homelessness. These real-life accounts show us how racism and discrimination can negatively impact every area of a person's life – preventing them from finding a home, a job or accessing healthcare.



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**12:30-  
13:30**

### **Workforce pay and progression**

- **Clare Budden and Katie Dalton - Workforce Task and Finish Group**

Following on from this morning's session, we will discuss research and recommendations to improve frontline worker pay and progression in the homelessness sector, asking for your views to shape the final recommendations.

### **Post custody pathways out of homelessness**

- **Carl Spiller - Welsh Government**

Following the recommendations from the Expert Review Panel, a Post Custody Accommodation Working Group has been established to review the arrangements for people leaving prison and try to prevent homelessness. Hear about its work and join the conversation about what needs to change.

### **Support solutions to growing complexity**

- **Jordan Brewer - Cymorth Cymru**

The Senedd Housing and Local Government Committee is holding an inquiry into housing support for vulnerable people. In this workshop, we will be focusing on how housing support services and other public services can meet growing complexity and risk, feeding into the inquiry.

## **Lunch**

**14:15-  
15:00**

### **Experts by Experience – Continuing the journey**

- **Jordan Brewer and Steph Whitehead - Cymorth Cymru**
- **Aled Miles-Yates - Chair, Shadow Board, The Wallich**
- **Minky Ban - Lived Experience and Co-Production Coordinator, The Wallich**

We are excited to launch a new report which shares good practice from Wales and beyond about involving experts by experience. From shaping services to sitting on boards and influencing national policy, this session will highlight some of the examples in the report, including the challenges and successes experienced by organisations which have tried to place lived experience at the heart of their work. Importantly, we will also hear from experts by experience about their views on how best to value their insight and support their involvement.

**15:00-  
15:45**

### **Literacy, Numeracy, and Homelessness – What Do We Know?**

- **Molly Bishop - Head of Implementation, Centre for Homelessness Impact**

We are delighted to welcome the Centre for Homelessness Impact to talk about their new report, which explores the links between homelessness and challenges with literacy and numeracy. This research considers the impact of educational attainment in childhood, the prevalence of learning difficulties in the homelessness population, and how services can best support people with these experiences.

**15:45**

### **Closing remarks**

- **Sam Austin - Chair, Cymorth Cymru**



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