



TANI

2024



Breakout One

The White Paper: A route map to ending the homelessness crisis?

Sesiwn un

Y papur gwyn: Llwybr tuag at roi terfyn ar yr argyfwng digartrefedd?

Hannah Fisher, Head of Homelessness Prevention Legislation, Welsh Government

Gaynor Toft, Head of Housing and Public Protection, Pembrokeshire County Council

Claire Shiland, Operations Director, North Wales Housing Association

Chair: Cerys Clark, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru



The background features a light beige color with several purple decorative elements. On the left, there is a large, semi-circular purple shape containing a faint, grey leaf pattern. On the right, there is a large, irregular purple shape. A thin, dark purple wavy line curves across the bottom of the page.

Lived experiences of homelessness

“If someone had told me that later in life, I would be homeless I would have sworn blind – never. You can never expect it. It just happens. I came home to London from my mother’s funeral in Barbados in 2000. It took me about six months to get back into work, but within nine months of working I couldn’t afford to live on my salary. It felt like everything had skyrocketed overnight. The house prices and renting had gone up so much that I couldn’t afford to pay.

People can only help you for so long... I was young, my life was flourishing, and out of the blue, I’m homeless. Homelessness is a dog’s life. People scorn you. I wouldn’t wish it on my worst enemy. People try to adapt to it but I found it hard. I never realised how important a bed was, and sleeping was. Being able to stretch out. You just survive, by any means necessary.”

Saville- Croydon



“When I was 22, I went to stay with a cousin in London. It turned into three months. That was the first time I'd felt free for years. I went back to Oxford. I was struggling with my mental health, and I had no job. I had to sleep in my father's garage because the house was still full of lodgers. I managed to get a room in a shared house with my sister and a friend.

I know I'm still only one pay-cheque away from being evicted again. I always thought homelessness was just rough sleeping. But it's people in unsuitable and temporary accommodation too. I had no idea I was entitled to any benefits or support.

Having somewhere safe and stable to live is something everyone deserves.”

Codi - Oxford



“There’s a myriad of different reasons for people being homeless, but no one stops to ask. I met so many people on the street that didn’t have a drink or drug problem, but for me it was an escape. But the council wouldn’t rehouse me because of the addiction, so I ended up on the streets in Sheffield for just short of four years. I tried to kill myself so many times, the doctors stopped really bothering with me. But then someone told me about a specialist hostel for people in addiction. I went down for an interview, got a bed the same night, moved in there and been clean ever since.”

Stephen - Sheffield



“I’m going to train as a social worker because I want to work with young people that have been through what I’ve been through. I grew up in an abusive household and my mum didn’t really like paying rent, so we were always in and out of hostels I had a friend who let me stay with her for a month in Leeds. Then I sofa surfed, then I ended up in some hostels.

I was lucky when I spoke to my current hostel, Rush House in Rotherham. I went for an interview and was in one of their properties within 24 hours. They’re supportive and wonderful people.

When they found out I wanted to apply to university they’ve all been behind me every step of the way I’ve never had that support behind me. I’ve never been told that I’m smart enough to go to university, I’ve never been told that sure life’s hard, but it does get better.”

Abi Rotherham



The White Paper on ending homelessness in Wales

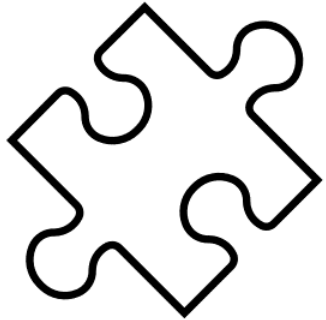
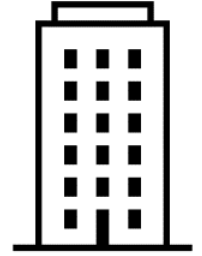
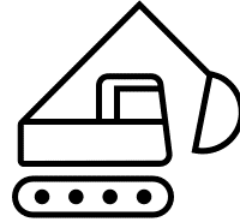


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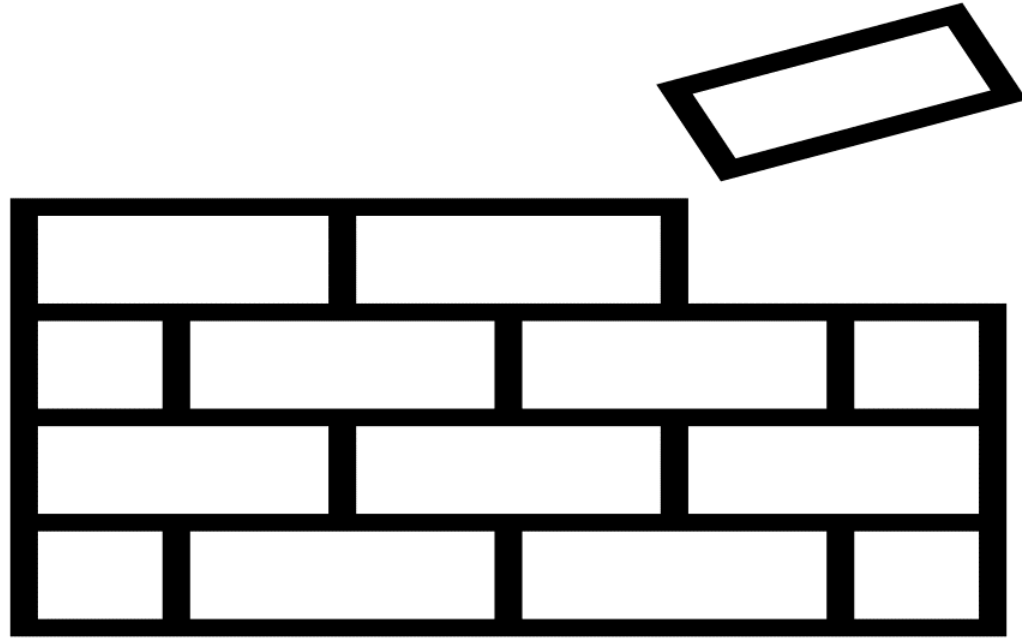
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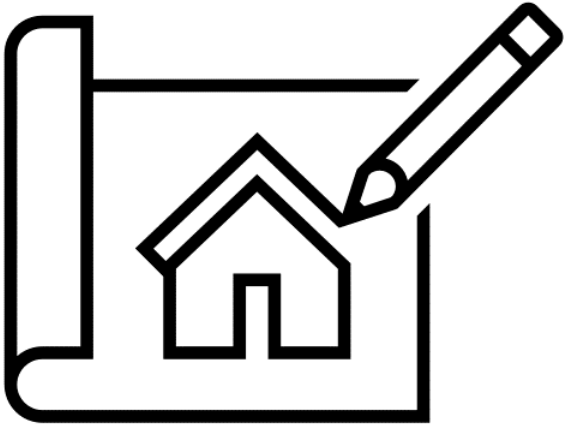
Ending homelessness
in Wales



Homelessness legislative reform



The White Paper on ending homelessness in Wales



- Homelessness should be rare, brief and unrepeated.
- The reforms will facilitate service delivery that is trauma informed and person-centred
- The reforms will support the Welsh Government long term policy aim of Rapid Rehousing
- The reforms will ensure that preventing homelessness is the responsibility of the entire Welsh public service.

Legislative themes



Core homelessness
reforms



Wider public
service duties



Targeted
prevention



Access to housing



Implementation



Next steps

350+ people with lived experience of homelessness including people from protected groups

15 Expert Review Panels

2x allocations research involving all LAs and majority of RSLs.

4 regional and 1 national events with LAs, RSLs and the Third sector

8 Stakeholder events run by Crisis

6 weekly meetings between RSLs and Crisis

5 Local Authority Reference groups

5 Themed stakeholder engagement events

22 White Paper overview sessions with every local authority in Wales

3 Bespoke events for RSLs (co-facilitated with CHC)

600 social housing tenants surveyed (administered by TPAS)

140 written consultation responses



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Thank you

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