

Friday 26/03/21

A Roadmap To End Youth Homelessness in Wales

CHC HA Chairs and Vice Chairs SDG Meeting

Frances Beecher

Chair

End Youth Homelessness Cymru

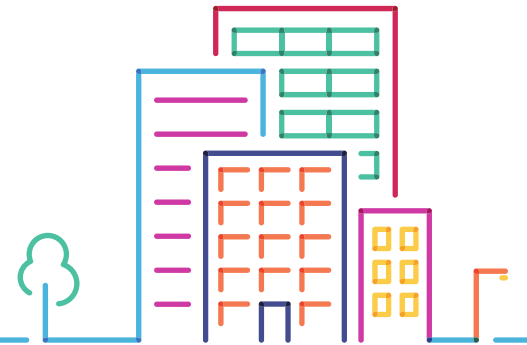
@FJBeecher

Hugh Russell

Project Manager

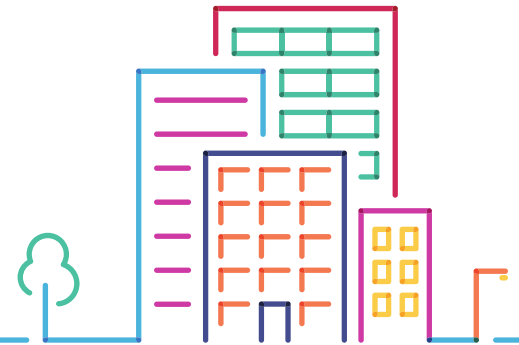
End Youth Homelessness Cymru

@Hugh_EYHC



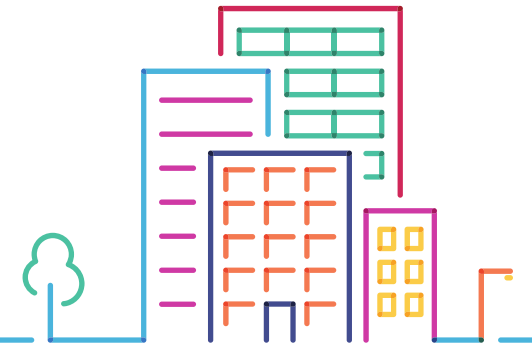
End Youth Homelessness Cymru - Background

- Research shows that in a sample of homeless people in Wales, 48% first became homeless before the age of 21.2 Further, 73% had been homeless more than once, showing that once you become homeless once, it is likely to recur (Mackie, 2014).
- This shows that to build on the response to homelessness during COVID-19 and effectively end adult homelessness, it is necessary to intervene early and prevent young people from becoming homeless.
- Youth Homelessness is a distinct issue that requires distinct solutions
- EYHC exists to promote these youth-focused ways of working

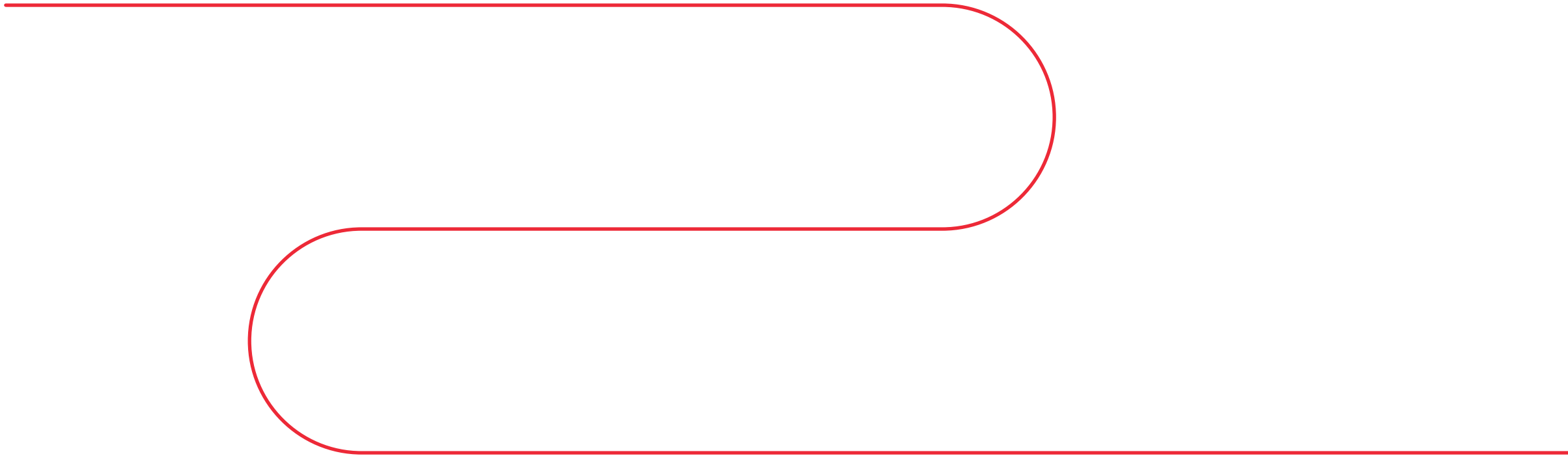


The Roadmap to Ending Youth Homelessness in Wales

- Origins
 - The Homelessness Action Group & international inspiration
- Approach
 1. Apply a youth lens to HAG recommendations, adopting the same framework
 2. What We Know and What We Should Do About It
 3. Coproduced through 5 sessions + 3 years of EYHC
- End goal
 - The Roadmap provides the basis for strategic planning and ACTION from Welsh Government, LAs, RSLs, third sector, faith based organisations in order to End Youth Homelessness. Please take it and use it!



The Roadmap





1. UNIVERSAL PREVENTION

Preventing or minimising youth homelessness risks across the population at large, *e.g. provision of sufficient affordable housing for young people.*





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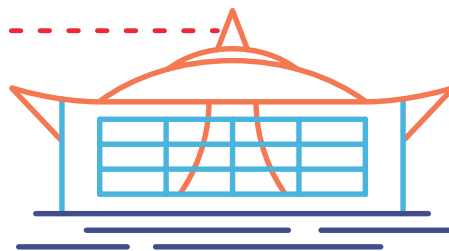
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3. CRISIS PREVENTION

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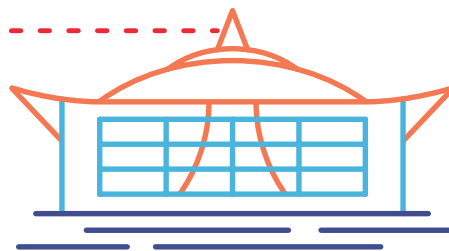
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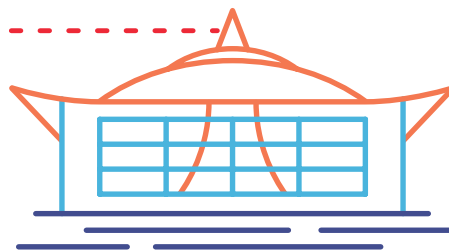
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5. RECOVERY PREVENTION

Prevention of repeat homelessness – sofa surfing and rough sleeping *e.g. Housing First for Youth.*

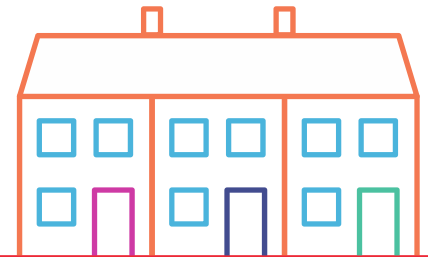


Universal Prevention



What We Know

Childhood poverty is strongly linked to youth homelessness and poverty, later in life, holds young people back from moving on from homelessness; there is **not enough affordable housing** for young people; **ACEs** are linked to vulnerability to homelessness; **discrimination** can lead to young people being made homeless.





Universal Prevention

What We Should Do:

- Implement a **Child Poverty Strategy**, linked to homelessness policy, and address out-of-reach housing costs for young people through a **Welsh Benefits System** (as per JRF & Bevan Foundation)
- Build with young people in mind – young people's housing needs to be given more consideration via Local Housing Market Assessments, as noted by the 2019 Affordable Housing Supply Review
- Share the learning from **Tai Ffres**, a unique, youth-focused housing provider designed with youth homelessness prevention at heart.
- Address ACEs by continuing to promote **trauma informed practice** through commissioning and linking of youth homelessness and ACEs strategies
- **Address discrimination** by highlighting impact of youth homelessness with representative bodies for groups that face discrimination (see EYHC work with Stonewall Cymru to inform forthcoming WG LGBT+ Action Plan, for example)

Tai Ffres



‘A safe, secure, and affordable home for all young people in Wales’

- Inspired by youth housing associations in Finland and Australia and a lack of specialised housing for young people (other than students) in Wales
- Partnership between United Welsh and Llamau
- Informed by young people’s views, via consultation, research and on an ongoing basis via a youth board, inc. young people with a broad range of experiences
- Co-production at the heart of decision making
- Aiming to provide housing suitable for young people in places they want to live at prices they can afford
- UWHA are in the process of refurbishing an initial 9 properties in Cardiff to provide Tai Ffres with its first homes for young people. Target is 16 homes in 2021/22.
- Working with LA to operate outside of their allocations policy, to offer to young people in housing need

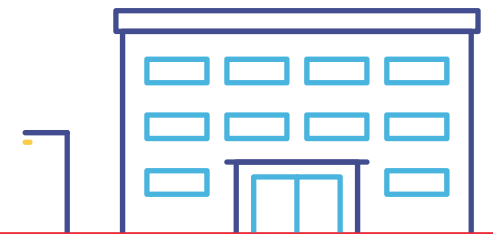
Targeted Prevention



What We Know

Some young people are more vulnerable to homelessness than others so we need to target our preventative efforts at them. These include young people who are:

- Leaving care
- Leaving the secure estate
- Leaving or moving between healthcare services
- LGBTQ+
- Asylum seekers
- Neurodiverse
- Excluded from school



Targeted Prevention



What We Should Do:

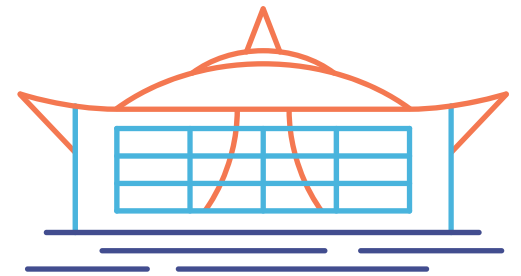
- Invest in Upstream Cymru, the best evidenced resource for targeted, early prevention
- In tandem with Upstream Cymru, **Family Mediation** can be a highly effective targeted prevention tool
- **Maintain Youth Work Investment** - agents of targeted youth homelessness prevention
- Target well-resourced **employment support** at vulnerable groups (e.g. Symud Ymlaen)
- Ensure that **transition pathways** work, **supplementing them with specific support services** (e.g. TGP Cymru's Team Around the Tenancy for young people leaving care). Implement **Critical Time Interventions** in partnership with institutions - Crisis are currently developing this model for prison-leavers in Swansea.
- **End school exclusion ultimately** & in the meantime, **ensure access to educational re-engagement projects**, which, when operating with Upstream, can be targeted to great effect

Crisis Prevention



What We Know

Family breakdown is a key cause of presentation at crisis point for young people. Forcing young people to navigate adult homelessness services is inappropriate and ineffective. Young people who have spoken to EYHC about the issue describe feeling intensely uncomfortable when sharing services with older homeless people and call for **youth-specific services**.



Crisis Prevention



What We Should Do:

- Ensure **Wales-wide provision of Co-located Youth Services** (e.g. the VOG's 'One-Stop Shop' where Children's Services, Housing and Llamau share one space).
- **End use of systems which restrict access** to sustainable accommodation for young people in need (intentionality, priority need) and reconsider local connection for care-leavers.
- Ensure **Wales-wide access to family mediation** at crisis point
- Similarly, ensure **educational re-engagement services**, are available across Wales to intervene at crisis point
- Establish a practice of **multi-agency case reviews** when care-experienced young people present as at risk of homelessness

Emergency Prevention



What We Know

When young people become homeless they will typically try to stay with friends or family first, but this is not an option for all, leading to rough sleeping. Prior to the pandemic, the options available to young people at this point were often completely inappropriate. Changes to WG guidance per Phase 2 of the COVID response have taken some of the worst options off the table, but it is crucial that these are replaced by appropriate, youth-specific and supported alternatives.



Emergency Prevention



What We Should Do:

- Ensure that emergency or temporary accommodation is **youth-specific, time-limited, supported** and that there is a **rapid rehousing plan** in place for those staying there.
- Invest in **youth-focussed community hosting** (e.g. Nightstop for emergencies, Supported Lodgings for longer term stays)
- Continue to promote the **Youth Homelessness Helpline**

Recovery Prevention



What We Know

Repeat homelessness is a significant concern for young people in Wales. Crisis research (2014) found that in a sample of homeless people in Wales, 59% first became homeless before the age of 21 and 78% had been homeless more than three times. More recently, ADR Wales (2020) found that 24% of homeless clients in Swansea returned for help with homelessness within a 3 year period. Young people have told EYHC that they have been homeless on repeat occasions.



Recovery Prevention



What We Should Do:

- Offer **rapid rehousing into youth-specific, psychologically-informed, supported accommodation**, with sufficient availability of LGBTQ+-specific and gender-specific supported accommodation across the country.
- **Invest in Housing First for Youth** and in an environment in which it can work, e.g. rework the funding system so that open-ended provision attracts open-ended funding.
- Give serious consideration to **Direct Cash Transfers and Personalised Budgets**, both of which approaches have found success in pilots

Intervention Map

End Youth Homelessness Cymru

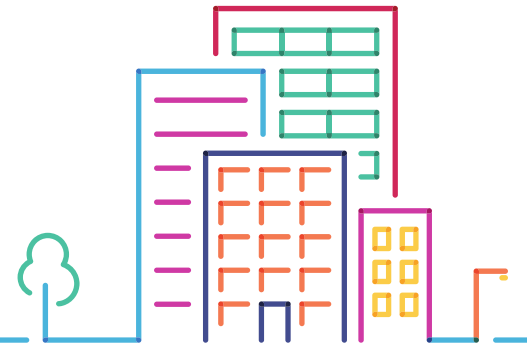
INTERVENTION	TYPE OF PREVENTION				
	Universal	Targeted	Crisis	Emergency	Relief
Youth Housing Association Provision (e.g. the United Welsh/Llamau Youth Housing Choices Project)					
Upstream Cymru, an in-school targeted service to identify young people at risk of homelessness					
Youth Workers trained and supported to identify young people at risk of homelessness					
Transition to housing strategy for young people leaving Care, to include specific support, such as TGP Cymru's Team Around the Tenancy					
Transition to housing strategy for young people leaving the secure estate, to include specific support, such as Pobl's Enhanced Support Service, and Critical Time Intervention					
Transition to housing strategy for young people leaving healthcare facilities, such as NYAS's Newid service, and Critical Time Intervention					
Transition to housing strategy for refugees, to include specific support and Critical Time Intervention					
School Exclusion Prevention, to include educational re-engagement service, such as Llamau's EMPHASIS					
Targeted employment support, such as Llamau's Symud Ymlaen/Moving Forward					
Family Mediation services, such as those provided by Llamau					
Co-located Youth Services (e.g. the Vale of Glamorgan's 'One-Stop Shop' where Children's Services, Housing and Llamau share one space)					
Multi-agency case reviews when care-experienced young people present as at risk of homelessness					
Youth Homelessness Helpline					
Emergency Beds in Psychologically-Informed Supported Housing					
Nightstop (Emergency Community Hosting)					
Supported Lodgings (Community Hosting)					
Enhanced Supported Lodgings (Community Hosting with additional support)					
Rapid Rehousing in Youth-Specific, Psychologically-Informed Supported Housing					
Rapid Rehousing in LGBTQ+ Specific, Psychologically-Informed, Youth Supported Housing					
Rapid Rehousing in Gender-Specific, Psychologically-Informed Youth Supported Housing					
Housing First for Youth					
Floating Support from Youth-Specific Support Workers					

The final version of the Roadmap will include an Intervention Map, setting out effective forms of youth homelessness intervention in each of the 5 prevention areas, to support commissioning and planning.



Conclusion

- We know that these approaches should work: they build on progressive, preventative principles; they're well evidenced and informed by partners and young people; they complement existing or planned approaches (notably HAG). But we must see accountability for their delivery. All partners involved in the fight to end youth homelessness need to hold one another accountable for leaving poor practice behind and focussing on evidence-based, youth-specific, preventative approaches.



Points for Discussion

- What can RSLs do to collaborate on ending youth homelessness?
 - Support EYHC – we will develop a specialist network focussed on how the housing sector can contribute to ending youth homelessness
 - Develop a clear understanding of what young people want from housing in your areas and ensure that the housing you develop meets that – are your consultation processes accessible to young tenants/prospective tenants?
 - Consider rents – are they affordable for young people?

