

Terms of Reference – Housing Support Network

The Housing Support Network is co-ordinated in partnership between Community Housing Cymru (CHC) and Cymorth Cymru.

It will act as one of CHC's Strategic Delivery Groups (SDGs), which actively support CHC's lobbying and advocacy work on issues identified by the membership through CHC's Corporate Plan.

It will operate alongside Cymorth's other policy networks, which link organisations responsible for delivering homelessness, housing and support services with the latest policy changes, challenges and opportunities, as well as shaping Cymorth's campaigning and lobbying work.

Purpose:

The Housing Support Network will:

- Test and develop policy ideas
- Respond to, shape and influence government and stakeholder policy ideas.
- Horizon scan to identify future risks and opportunities
- Feed into and shape CHC and Cymorth conferences and training so that they are relevant and beneficial for members.

Remit:

This Network will focus on the following areas in 2019/20 (as identified by the sector):

- Support and influence the development of the framework, guidance and outcomes for the Housing Support Grant
- Ensure that effective housing management practices (particularly substance misuse and housing allocation) are effective for people receiving housing related support services
- Ensure that housing related support services and housing management services are aware of the challenges facing each other and work collaboratively to support people to maintain tenancies
- Support and promote collaborative working and the sharing of best practice across services delivering homelessness and housing related support services
- Collaborate with CHC's Welfare Reform SDG to ensure that the housing classification of supported accommodation is appropriate and consistently implemented

- Collaborate with CHC's Fire Safety SDG to clarify the fire safety regulations and ensure that they are interpreted consistently;
- Collaborate with Cymorth Cymru's Regional Provider Forum network, the Housing First Wales Network and the Substance Misuse Network to ensure effective communication and collaboration across these policy areas and services.

The Chair and Vice-Chair will work alongside CHC and Cymorth Cymru to develop future work

Attendance:

- Core attendance is expected to be Landlord Representatives at the RCC, Provider Representatives at the RCC, and the Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Regional Provider Forums
- Each Housing Association and support provider will determine which staff to send to the Housing Support Network but this should be at an appropriate level to engage with strategic discussions about policy, legislation, funding and practice.

Logistics:

- An agenda will be circulated in advance.
- The Housing Support Network will run 3 times a year, with one of these meetings taking place in North Wales.
- One of the meetings will be held in partnership with the local authority Housing Support Network meeting and this will usually be held in Mid Wales.
- The dates for 2019/20 have been set in advance.
- The SDGs will predominately run in 5 geographical locations with a key focus on accessibility for public transport. These areas are Wrexham, Conwy, Newport, Swansea and Cardiff.
- There will be an option to join the SDGs virtually where the agenda allows.
- There will be an agenda item at the end of each SDG to self-evaluate.
- Outcomes and progress from each SDG will be reflected in CHC's quarterly progress reports;
- CHC and Cymorth staff will provide administration support
- Attendance for CHC and Cymorth members is free. In the event of non-attendance a charge to cover costs will be made to the relevant organisations.

Role of the Chair and Vice Chair:

The Housing Support Network will be co-Chaired by Community Housing Cymru and Cymorth Cymru.

The Director of Cymorth Cymru will co-Chair on behalf of Cymorth.

The term of office for this SDG will run from May 2019 – March 2022. Following the culmination of the 3 year period, the CHC co-Chair and Vice Chair will be asked to step down to enable the nomination of a new co-Chair and vice Chair.

The role (both co-Chairs):

- To attend and chair 3 Housing Support Network meetings a year.
- To support the CHC and Cymorth Cymru leads on the development of a work plan, with identified outcomes.
- To set the agenda in conjunction with the CHC and Cymorth lead (based on their respective organisational plans and priorities)
- To work with the CHC and Cymorth lead to identify when things need to be escalated to other networks or groups
- To provide leadership and support the delivery of key outcomes.
- To participate and represent the group's view in other meetings such as the Supporting People National Advisory Board and other relevant internal meetings organised by CHC and Cymorth.

The role (CHC co-Chair)

- To participate in a short video at the end of each SDG to update others on key discussions, progress and next steps. This will be shared with other SDGs via Yammer.
- To contribute to CHC's Quarterly Progress reports updating members on the work of the SDG.

Length of term:

Delivery groups are reviewed at the beginning of each 3 year CHC corporate plan and Cymorth Strategic Plan.