



CYFLE NEWYDD, CYFLE OES

## **“YOUTH VOICE AND CHOICE: INNOVATION IN HOUSING FOR HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE IN SWANSEA”**

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RESEARCH COMMISSIONED BY:



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# OVERVIEW

1. Research aims and objectives
2. Scoping
3. Research Design and Methodology
4. Statistics
5. Findings
6. Recommendations

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# RESEARCH OVERVIEW

**Aim:** Explore and develop innovative housing solutions for young people in Swansea.

## **Empirical Objectives:**

- Examine the experiences of young people within a range of tenure settings.
- Investigate the opportunities and constraints faced by individuals in accessing and sustaining accommodation, both in temporary and long-term housing.

## **Conceptual Objectives:**

- Explore the efforts to develop housing to prevent homelessness and support homeless young people.



# SWANSEA PROJECTS - SCOPING



Llys Awen, Complex Needs project, Gwalia, Pobl Group



Street Fleet, Rough Sleepers Intervention Team

Managed properties, formerly SYSHP

Drws Agored, supported accommodation, formerly SYSHP

The Foyer, supported accommodation, Gwalia, Pobl Group

Cam Nesaf, Care Leaver, Gwalia, Pobl Group

Gorwelion Project, recovery project, supported housing, The Wallich

Dinas Fechan, hostel accommodation, The Wallich

Cross Border's Women's Project, supported independent flats, The Wallich

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# NATIONAL - SCOPING



Future Builders, 1625  
Independent People, Bristol.

Ty Cyfle, Bron Afon,  
Pontypool.



Shipping container  
conversion, Merthyr Valley  
Homes.



# RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

- Case Study
- Semi Structured youth homeless interviews
- Peer-led focus groups
- Semi Structured key informant interviews
- Ethical considerations and researcher's positionality

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# MEET OUR PEER RESEARCHERS





# MEET THE YOUNG PEOPLE...

	Category	Number	%
Direct	Female	20	54%
	Male	17	46%
	In education	9	24%
	In employment	1	2.7%
	In training	1	2.7%
	Volunteering	2	5.4%
	Not In Education Employment or Training (NEET)	24	65%
	Have child	4	11%
Indirect	Main carer of children	1	2.7%
	Care leaver	10	27%
	Young carer	1	2.7%
	Ethnic minority	4	11%
	LGBTQ+	2	5.4%
	Disability	8	22%
	Mental Health	17	46%
	Slept Rough	12	32%
	Sofa Surfed	20	46%

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# FINDINGS

## Where we get it right...

- Supportive programmes
- Education
- Accommodation

## Making change: where housing falls through the gap...

### *Issues:*

Affordability

Financial difficulties

Process

Communication

Discrimination and Stereotype

Support

Quality and Suitability of Accommodation

Environment

Safety

Choice

Location

### *Influences:*

- Illegal substance use
- Family and Relationships
- Community
- Mental Health
- Disability and Ill-Health
- Education

### *Issues, influence, consequence:*

- Rough Sleeping
- Sofa Surfing



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Development of the transitional framework of a young person's homelessness journey in Swansea.
- Different stages seek policy and practice recommendations alongside current good practice.
- Prevention/ Process/ Housing/ Support



# Framework: A young person's homelessness journey

## Early intervention and Prevention:

- Limited knowledge and support within educational institutes.
- Lack of family and relationship support at earlier stages pre-homelessness.
- High levels of mental health and substance misuse.

## Recommendations:

- Up-streaming
- Information through education.
- Pre-crisis mediation.
- Specialist substance misuse and mental health support for families.

## Phase 1



## Phase 2

### First point of call:

- Accessibility and Communication.
- Criteria for housing and support.
- Limited interim accommodation.

### Recommendations:

- Youth Homelessness Charter.
- Information outlets.
- Training.
- Emergency interim accommodation.



### Housing for All:

- Substandard accommodation across sector.
- Safety.
- Affordability.
- Lack of 'home'.

### *Recommendations:*

- Co-operative approach to housing.
- Shared housing options and guidance.
- Housemate and education.
- Housing First Principles.
- Pre-tenancy support and development of 'home'.

## Phase 3

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### Guidance and Support:

- Limited personalisation of support.
- Continuity of support staff.
- Knowledge of housing and welfare rights and entitlements.

### Recommendations:

- Personalised approach and Psychologically Informed Environment.
- Recognition of staff.
- The inclusion of the rights and entitlements of young people in the Youth Homelessness Charter.

## Phase 4



# THE WAY FORWARD: DEMANDING CHANGE...

## National:

- Housing Wales Conference 2020
- End Youth Homelessness Cymru board – March

## Local:

- Swansea Accommodation Pathway – Strategic Board.
- Young people's involvement with specification development for housing project tender.
- Discussions with Geraint Davies MP Swansea West.



# CONTACT

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Full report and campaign released February 2020 in collaboration with Llamau.

**Llamau**

Imagine a World Without  
Homelessness

**Diolch yn fawr am wrando.**

Please feel free to get in touch if you have  
any queries or further questions.

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