

Dear Finance Committee Members,

Welsh Government budget 2020/21: Housing Support Grant

In early December Cymorth Cymru, Community Housing Cymru and Welsh Women's Aid published our joint report '[Housing Matters](#)' which called for the Housing Support Grant to be increased in the Welsh Government's budget for 2020/21.

The Housing Support Grant is the Welsh Government's principal funding stream for preventing homelessness and supporting independent living. Every year it helps more than 60,000 people to avoid homelessness, escape violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, live in their own homes and thrive in their communities.

As you will be aware, the Welsh Government's draft budget revealed that the Housing Support Grant has been allocated the same amount of funding as last year.

Local authorities, third sector support providers and social landlords have worked incredibly hard over the past few years to make savings within their services. Costs of delivery have grown, mainly due to inflation and complexity of demand, but funding has not. **In fact, the budget has faced real terms cuts of over £37million since 2012.** This is set against a backdrop of increased homelessness and people presenting with a more challenging combination of co-occurring issues such as mental health problems, substance use problems and the impact of trauma.

Our members are telling us that services have now reached a tipping point - and a cash flat settlement in 2020/21 will not be enough to achieve the shared ambitions of Welsh Government, landlords and support providers.

In your scrutiny of the draft budget we urge you to raise this issue with Ministers and advocate for additional funding from the UK Government's budget in March to be allocated to the Housing Support Grant. This will enable services to be better equipped to prevent homelessness and support more people to live safely and independently in their own homes. We have really appreciated the support shown by members of all parties in recent years and hope that you can continue to do so through committee scrutiny, oral questions, letters to Ministers and the draft budget debate on 4th February.

Please get in touch if you would like more information about the Housing Support Grant or services in your constituency/region. We would also be very happy to meet with you or your support staff to discuss this issue further.

Kind regards,



Katie Dalton
Director
Cymorth Cymru



Stuart Ropke
Chief Executive
Community Housing Cymru



Eleri Butler
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Download the Housing Matters report in [English](#) or in [Welsh](#).