

# Senedd Election 2021

## Our proposals

**Covid-19 has starkly demonstrated the centrality of a good home to public health and physical and mental wellbeing. Housing will continue to be a public health issue until everyone in Wales has a good home; it is a matter of life and death.**

We have an unprecedented opportunity to dramatically reduce rough sleeping by investing in interventions that are proven to work. Our proposals for party manifestos are designed to lift people's quality of life and support a stronger, healthier Wales. An aspect of our proposals that we consider to be fundamental to everything else, is the **full incorporation of the right to an adequate home into Welsh law.**

# Universal prevention

- **Recognise the importance of good homes as a public health concern** and reflect this in the incorporation of the legal right to a home as well as in budget-setting, so that housing receives the investment that's needed to sustain people's health and wellbeing.
- **Build 4,000 social homes a year** because we need an increased supply of affordable, secure homes now more than ever.
- As an element of the right to a home, **ensure that every person in Wales has the ability to live in a home that is affordable** by pulling together [existing disparate strands of financial support](#).
- **Explore the devolution of the housing element of Universal Credit** to make the system more responsive to the Welsh housing market and to people's needs.
- **Review housing quality standards in light of Covid** so that new homes are built to [meet people's needs](#) in terms of hygiene, privacy and access to outdoor space.
- **End no-fault evictions** to give people renting the confidence that they won't be evicted unless there is a reason that is justifiable; and **remove the serious rent arrears ground** from the Renting Homes (Wales) Act, to enable the courts to take into account mitigating circumstances affecting private tenants, such as Covid.

# Targeted prevention

- **Create a public sector homelessness prevention duty** so that all services play their part in preventing people becoming homeless.
- **Prevent homelessness from social housing** so that anyone whose tenancy can't be saved is supported into a more suitable situation and doesn't fall through the gaps into homelessness.
- **Develop Welsh pre-action protocols for the social and private rented sectors** so that Wales can define its own approach to preventing evictions.
- **Remove the financial barriers that prevent homeless young people from working** while they live in supported accommodation, holding back their independence and life chances.

# Crisis prevention

- **Provide funding to local authorities** to enable them to respond flexibly to people's housing needs, for example by buying the rent debt of tenants who are struggling, and buying homes that have sitting tenants or that are empty to renovate and let at affordable rents.
- **End the priority need test** so that everyone who is homeless receives the support they need to find a home.

# Emergency prevention

- **Raise standards of emergency accommodation** including an end to the use of floorspace which is widely regarded as [worse than B&B accommodation](#).

# Recovery prevention

- **Roll out rapid rehousing** by supporting local authorities to develop plans to redesign the homelessness system away from long stays in temporary accommodation.
- **Increase provision of Housing First accommodation and support** to prevent long-term rough sleeping.
- **Reform social housing allocations** to remove barriers for people who are homeless to access social homes.

These are our proposals for the next Government in Wales to take forward in 2021 and beyond. If you would like to discuss these further please contact Jennie Bibbings at [jennieb@sheltercymru.org.uk](mailto:jennieb@sheltercymru.org.uk).

# Typology of homelessness prevention

## Universal prevention

Recognise the importance of good homes as a public health concern.

Build 4,000 social homes a year.

End fixed term tenancies and end the rent arrears possession ground.

Ensure that every person has the ability to live in a home that is affordable.

Review housing quality standards in light of Covid.

Devolve the housing element of Universal Credit.

## Targeted prevention

End fixed term tenancies and end the rent arrears possession ground.

Ensure that every person has the ability to live in a home that is affordable.

Review housing quality standards in light of Covid.

Devolve the housing element of Universal Credit.

## Crisis prevention

Fund local authorities to respond flexibly to people's housing needs.

End the priority need test.

## Emergency prevention

Raise emergency accommodation standards: end the use of floorspace.

## Recovery prevention

Roll out rapid rehousing across Wales, including Housing First.

Devolve the housing element of Universal Credit.

Reform social housing allocations to remove barriers for people who are homeless.