

TAKE NOTICE!

#2

SEPTEMBER 2023

Written by and for people who have experienced homelessness, or know what it's like to live in unsafe, unaffordable, unsuitable housing. Together we can make a real difference to the housing emergency in Wales.



A world without homelessness

That's the goal

By **Mark Eaton-Lees**

(Peer Researcher & Take Notice Member)

I had the delight in July of going to Sacramento to be a volunteer at the Homeless World Cup. The first event since Cardiff in 2019 because of Covid. Over 40 teams made the journey to the capital of California, and they didn't disappoint.

The week-long football event, saw players beaming with pride in playing for their country. We witnessed players swapping stories, praying together, and signing gifts for each other. Thousands of handshakes, fist bumps, and friendships were made over a shared experience.

I saw the Australian team with inflatable kangaroos, a Scottish player playing a match wearing a kilt and French players singing their national anthem a little louder on Bastille Day.

For the players winning or losing didn't matter, wearing the shirts, singing the national anthems of their countries, and belonging to something took precedence.

Everyone in the world has the same goal...to belong.

A Look Back at Cardiff 2019

In 2019, actor Michael Sheen brought the Homeless World Cup to Wales and Shelter Cymru was proud to be one of the housing and homelessness charities chosen to speak at the event in Cardiff.

Shelter Cymru staff members John Puzey and Annie Simmonds Cotter spoke about our Trapped on the Streets research. Since that time, it has become a priority for councils to home anyone who is street homeless - it almost seems unbelievable that this wasn't the law before 2022.

Being part of the Homeless World Cup was an invaluable opportunity to highlight our ongoing fight to end homelessness in Wales. When it comes back to Wales - we'll be there!

For more information on this annual event, please go to the Homeless World Cup website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Please email getinvolved@sheltercymru.org.uk if you are interested in any of the following:

7 October

Tesco, Swansea bucket collection

8 October

RENT rehearsals with Q & A
Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff

18 and 19 October

Wellbeing focus group

Join us online to discuss ways we can support the wellbeing of the people we help.

26 October

Asda, Wrexham bucket collection

28 October

Snowdonia Marathon Eryri

1 November

Take Notice Virtual Get-Together

Join the Take Notice network online for:

- work on Shelter Cymru's 'Early Signs of Housing Difficulty' leaflet
- free training - Housing Law for Everyone (tbc)

11 November

Tŷ Pawb, Wrexham Bucket Collection

18 November

Asda, Rhyl Bucket Collection

20 November

Newsletter Content Deadline

If you have ideas or content for the Christmas edition of this newsletter, please let us know by 20 November!

23 December

Wrexham AFC Match Day bucket collection

Shelter Cymru - Projects

Most of Shelter Cymru's work is advice and guidance, we specialise in making sure people know their rights and get the best support. We also have 'projects' all over Wales which are more local and strive to end the housing emergency in different ways.

HOUSING FIRST

Housing First focuses on getting a permanent tenancy for individuals with a long history of homelessness and/or rough sleeping and who have complex needs (e.g. drug and alcohol issues, physical and/or mental health issues) and provides intensive support to help maintain the tenancy. **A home first, then the support.**

Shelter Cymru currently has a Housing First project in Gwynedd where our staff currently work with 14 individuals who have struggled with housing issues in the past. One of them, Martin, is a member of our Take Notice team and is a HUGE supporter of the Housing First idea. For him, the support has been 'life-saving'.

If you want to know more about Housing First, there is a lot of information on the internet - have a search.



SCAN ME

PEOPLE & HOMES

This year was our first ever hybrid conference which means that you can watch it online.

If you would like to get involved with 2024's conference, let us know.

PLANNING HAS ALREADY STARTED!

Ask the Trainers!

Like so many things, the housing sector is FULL of jargon. Shelter Cymru's training department tries to help us all make sense of it...

WHAT'S A SECTION 173?

A Section 173 notice (S173) can be served by landlords to evict tenants. Before the recent Renting Homes (Wales) Act, it was called a Section 21 (S21). You don't have to have done anything 'wrong' to get one, so sometimes they are referred to as **no fault evictions**.

In August 2023 alone, Shelter Cymru were contacted by 85 people who had been served this type of notice. That's a lot of people and families who need to find somewhere else to live.

For more information, please visit our [Advice on Line](#) page

FAIR RENTS and AFFORDABILITY - a Green Paper Consultation

The system isn't working. We're regularly seeing cases where rents have more than doubled and action is needed to stabilise the market, but we can't risk negative effects on tenants. We all need to think more broadly about the role of the private rented sector and why rents are going up.

Shelter Cymru used the Green paper response to remind Welsh Government that we need immediate responses to the housing emergency such as **increasing local housing allowance, ending no fault evictions and buying the existing properties for sale to use as social housing**. You can read the full response [here](#).

What do you think needs to be done? If you are interested in our policy and campaigns work, let us know.

Your views are so important.

GET INVOLVED WITH SHELTER CYMRU

There are lots of ways that you can support the fight for home and we're always happy to welcome both new and experienced volunteers.

- We run regular focus groups with people who have used Shelter Cymru services to help us continually improve what we do. We are looking for participants and facilitators to help to run these sessions.
- We need your help to review our Shelter Cymru Advice Online webpages to make them as accessible, useful and informative as possible.
- Join Take Notice to work with local authorities to help them understand how to improve their housing services.
- Our Fundraising team organise regular events across Wales to help us raise funds and spread the word about our fight for home. Why not join us?
- We are recruiting Peer Researchers to speak to staff, service users and the public to better understand the barriers to housing and inform our campaign work.

getinvolved@sheltercymru.org.uk