

Sent by email

Dear Rhun ap Iorweth MS, Jane Dodds MS, Darren Millar MS, Ken Skates MS,
Anthony Slaughter MS, and Dan Thomas MS,

Firstly, congratulations on your election to the Senedd.

We write as a long-standing coalition of third sector housing and homelessness organisations - Homes for All Cymru – to highlight the need for urgent action to end the housing emergency for the thousands of people across Wales who do not have safe, secure, genuinely affordable homes.

Given the election results and that the Senedd will run by a minority government, we recognise that cross-party discussions and collaboration will be pivotal in shaping the issues addressed within the next parliamentary term

We strongly urge that such collaboration includes an emphasis on ending homelessness and delivering the safe, secure and genuinely affordable homes that Wales so desperately needs.

As organisations, we were pleased to see that across the spectrum of parties, election manifestos emphasised the need to boost Wales' housing supply. We hope that creating genuinely affordable housing (particularly social homes) and ensuring people across Wales are supported into homes will now form a key cornerstone for collaborative working over the coming months and years.

While welcome efforts have been made with cross-party support to tackle housing challenges in recent years, the reality is that with continuing pressures on the cost of living, we face a housing emergency as significant as it's ever been. We've come to a point where each month over 10,000 people are trapped in temporary accommodation; where private renters are struggling to meet increasingly unaffordable monthly rents; and where over 170,000 people are stuck on waiting lists for a social home.

Every day, our organisations see the impact and human cost of this. Without a stable place to call home, people's physical and mental wellbeing deteriorates and they face extreme difficulties accessing employment or education.

And there are costs to the public purse too – the Welsh Government estimate that every household experiencing homelessness costs public services in Wales £20,000 in direct

costs. Additionally, Alma Economics calculate that there are additional indirect costs to public services of £4,700 per household.

Meanwhile, poor quality housing adds to the strain on the NHS in Wales. Sub-standard housing costs the NHS in Wales around £95 million each year in direct treatment and research estimates the wider economic impact of poor-quality housing is estimated to be around £1 billion per year.

But it doesn't have to be this way. We know that there is a road map to move Wales out of this housing emergency, if all political parties in Wales commit to making homes and housing stability a priority.

As a coalition, we have set out three priority areas for action for the next Welsh Government in our joint manifesto: [*Homes For All: A collective manifesto to end the housing emergency for everyone in Wales*](#). These priorities are rooted in the research produced by our member organisations and the first-hand experiences of people impacted by homelessness and housing insecurity as well as front-line staff. We hope that they will inform your conversations with cross-party colleagues at this pivotal time.

To end the housing emergency in Wales, the Welsh Government must prioritise:

1. Delivering the social homes we need at pace, building on the delivery of recent years.

2. Embedding sustainable, person-centred solutions to prevent and end homelessness. This includes investing in the effective implementation of the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocations (Wales) Act as well as our housing and homelessness services.

3. Setting out a long-term vision and strategy so that a suitable, safe and genuinely affordable home is both a right and a reality for everyone in Wales.

The evidence is clear: our homes affect every part of our lives. They affect our health, our wellbeing, our access to opportunities like education and employment. Ultimately, investing in homes results in better outcomes for people, across a range of areas, and this in turn provides savings and efficiencies for public sector bodies.

Homes For All Cymru is well placed to support ambitions to ensure that Wales has the homes we need to protect people from homelessness, living in unsuitable housing that does not meet their needs and housing insecurity. We hope to continue to work closely with you all, your housing spokespeople and all Members of the Senedd over the coming years.

By working together, as a sector and with all political parties, we can ensure everyone has a stable place to call home.

Yours Sincerely,

