

# Development of Fronheulog: Supporting Information

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## About Us

Adferiad is a member-led Welsh charity that provides help, support, and care for people with mental health, substance use, wider addictions, and other complex problems including homelessness to maximise their personal potential and achieve a better quality of life.

We have over 40 years of experience and are one of the largest health and social care charities in Wales, delivering over 150 different contracted services in all 22 counties of Wales. Every year we support over 15,000 people through our services which range from: housing support; mental health support in the community; mental health crisis sanctuaries; drug and alcohol treatment; Gambling treatment and education; family and carer support; residential detoxification; counselling services; employment, training, and education support; user involvement services; and specialist support in mental health / substance use to targeted groups e.g., people in the criminal justice system; veterans; and children and young people.

We also provide a national and local voice for our clients and campaign alongside them to reform policy and law, improve services and combat discrimination.

## Our Aims

We aim to make positive changes in the lives of people affected by drugs, alcohol, mental health problems, and other life challenges, through a range of services and support delivered by skilled and experienced staff in the belief that people can and do change. Adferiad delivers a new, flexible and co-ordinated response to the exceptional circumstances faced by people with cooccurring mental health and substance misuse conditions and related issues.

## Our Values



Working Together



Dignity & Respect



Commitment to Quality  
Care & Support



Learning & Reflection

# Our Military Veterans' Services

Our Veteran's support work is delivered through our Change Step programme, delivered across Wales and including dedicated support and mentoring services for those in crisis, older veterans, and people with mental health and substance use needs.

Since 2014, Change Step has helped more than 2,854 veterans in Wales and 366 family members.

An independent review of veterans' services in Wales by the Forces in Mind Trust found Change Step to be a 'vital bridging mechanism' for veterans, and a 'cost-effective' and 'best-in-class' support service. In it, workers from the statutory sector in Wales hailed our strong footprint in local communities. Change Step was the service most frequently cited as useful and effective in the field of veterans' mental health.

*"Change Step is vital to Veterans. It has made a huge difference to me"*

*"Change Step has transformed rural Wales. I have seen Veterans and members of the Armed Forces Community gather ...to socialise and ... find support with challenges they would previously have suffered in silence" – AFLO Dwyren*

## Positive Pathway Programme

Our work with veterans continues across Wales by supporting local groups and new organisations as a Strategic Partner in the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's 'Positive Pathways Programme', part of the Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.

The Positive Pathways Programme funds projects that develop and run activities supporting the mental health and wellbeing of ex-forces personnel, encouraging veterans to get out and active.

As part of this programme, Adferiad supports smaller organisations to apply for project funding and supports successful applicants to deliver on their objectives.

## Veterans' Places, Pathways and People Programme (V4P)

Change Step is the strategic partner for the AFCT funded Veterans Places, Pathways, and People Programme (V4P). Thanks to this funding, and the exceptional commitment of Veterans across Wales, we have now established a Wales-wide network of organisations that support Veterans.



Under the V4P programme, Adferiad Veterans Services work in close partnership with 12 portfolio partners:

- Alabare
- Links Combined Forces
- Defence Medical Welfare Services
- Fighting with Pride
- Firing Line
- Icarus
- Mission Motorsport
- TGP Cymru
- Radiate Arts
- VC Gallery
- Valleys Veterans
- Woody's Lodge

These portfolio partners sit at the centre of their own regional hubs, linking all organisations that work with and for Veterans in Wales – including former Positive Pathways organisations where we have strong links.

### **Veteran Peer Mentors (VPMs)**

Our VPM's engage with housing/homelessness team staff and wider statutory agencies on Veterans' specific issues. We reach out to temporary and emergency accommodation settings to help us engage with Veterans living there.

We work with housing associations and registered social & private landlords to find the right housing solution, at the right time and in the right location for each Veteran.

We are a leading service provider of support service for Veterans living with mental health and substance use needs, experiencing homelessness. As such, we have extensive networks of regional and national organisations, and contribute to sector knowledge, strategic development, and identification of gaps in provision.

# Our Housing Services

At Adferiad, we take great pride in our extensive experience and in-depth knowledge of working in the Housing and Homelessness sector over the last 30 years, in partnership with local authority housing teams, housing associations, registered social landlords, private landlords, and wider community services. We currently deliver homeless prevention services across 17 of the 22 Local Authority areas of Wales.

Across Wales, we offer over 160 units of supported accommodation and provide floating support to over 400 clients in their own homes. This includes services from low-level floating support, through to high-needs, 24/7 staffed supported accommodation.

Specifically, our support provision across Wales includes:

- General homelessness contracts including Housing First services; assertive outreach for the street homeless; support to those in emergency/temporary accommodation etc.
- Over ten 24hr supported accommodation contracts including specialist housing providing step down from hospital, forensic, and residential admissions.
- Both shared housing and self-contained accommodation models of support
- Core and cluster support models – primary support housing units with supported satellite accommodation units surrounding.
- Mixed accommodation & floating support contracts; and floating support exclusive contracts.
- Embedded housing support staff in Housing Solutions or Health Board teams.
- CIW registered supported housing contracts with specific personal care provision.

In addition to our general homelessness and housing support contracts, we provide several specialist housing contracts to individuals with the following support needs:

- Children and Young People (inc. specific care leaver contracts).
- Ex-Offenders and those leaving the criminal justice system.
- Women experiencing domestic violence.
- People with mental health problems (including severe mental illness' such as bipolar, schizophrenia, BPD etc.)
- People with substance use problems (including alcohol, hallucinogens, CNS Stimulants etc.)
- Registered domiciliary care inc. personal care; support with prescribed medication; support with mobility etc.

In total, this equates to over 4000 hours of housing related support a week, with contracted services in Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham, Flintshire, Powys, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, RCT, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, & Merthyr.

*"Without the support of Adferiad I would still be in temporary accommodation, I'm so grateful for the support in securing my own tenancy".*

Examples of the support we provide include:

- attending appointments
- accessing education, training, and vocational opportunities
- managing visitors and access to their home
- feeling secure at home
- requesting repairs, and using appliances safely
- recognising and managing risk
- maintaining good relationships with neighbours
- completing benefit forms, understanding money, budgeting, and debt management
- referrals to other specialised services
- maintaining the property
- developing life skills
- developing links with the community, using resources
- developing and maintaining social relationships
- advocacy with other agencies
- contacting other agencies and individuals e.g., GPS, Social Care, CMHTs, Department of Social Security
- addressing any mental health and/or substance use concerns
- and self-management of any medication.

### **Adferiad as a Landlord**

In addition to our supported housing and housing management services, Adferiad is also a Landlord, with a rental portfolio of approximately 20 tenanted properties situated across Wales, registered with Rent Smart Wales. These properties are managed by staff within the Estates Department.

Our portfolio tenants typically have minor or no support needs, living independently in their homes.

Our longest standing tenant has been in his home for more than 20 years!

# Wales' Veterans Quality Housing Project

## Fronheulog

Fronheulog is a Victorian property situated on Ithon Road in Llandrindod Wells. Formerly a care home for 25 adults requiring personal care, the premises closed several years ago and has remained predominantly empty throughout that time.

## Feasibility Study

In January 2024, the AFCTF announced it has awarded more than £255,000 of capital funding to support six projects dedicated to enhancing quality of life and housing provisions for Veterans across England and Wales.

As part of this award, the Trust has supported Adferiad to explore the initial design and planning works required to enable the development of Fronheulog to provide 14 self-contained units of accommodation for Veterans (including two disability accessible flats).

A feasibility study is underway to determine the viability of the premises for conversion. This study will fully scope out the project, to support subsequent capital funding applications to finance the conversion.

## The Need

The 2021 Census recorded that in Powys, 1 in 20 people are veterans and 8% of households contain at least one veteran.

We know that working age Veterans are more likely than the general population to suffer from depression, hearing or sight loss and Musculo-skeletal problems. These can lead to difficulty with mental health and financial issues, both of which have been linked to a risk of homelessness.

The development of Veteran specific housing, at affordable rates, will fit 'The Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan' which sets out how Powys council, and other agencies will work together over the next five years (2023-28) to prevent homelessness and move people as quickly as possible from temporary accommodation into a settled home.

*"In just over three years we have seen the number of households requesting affordable housing more than double, the number of homeless households has increased by more than a third, and the number of households placed in temporary accommodation - including bed and breakfasts - has almost quadrupled," said Cllr Matthew Dorrance, Powys County Council's Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for a Fairer Powys. "So, we needed to act to deal with this unprecedented demand." 2nd August 2023*

## Prospective tenants

The Veterans we aim to assist in this project face various homelessness challenges. They may be homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in temporary supported accommodation.

Our project plan is to convert the nursing home into housing units that cater to Veterans' various housing needs. These units will be available at affordable, social rent rates, ensuring Veterans can access suitable accommodation.

This initiative directly aligns with the key criteria of the Veteran Capital Housing Fund program and is a significant step in addressing veteran homelessness while contributing to the broader goal of providing decent, energy-efficient, and long-term transitional housing for veterans in need.