

**SPRING CONFERENCE 2019 POLICY MOTION**

**Help! A compassionate response to rough sleeping**

**Conference notes that**

* rough sleeping is on the rise in many parts of Wales, with many more experiencing or at risk of homelessness;
* figures provided by Heriot-Watt University on projections for Wales estimate a 2016 figure of 300 rough sleepers across the country. This reflects a rise of 50 per cent since 2011;
* recent approaches by Cardiff Labour Council to tackling rough sleeping, including removing tents in breach of certain by-laws, which has been criticised as heavy handed and exacerbating negative public opinion.

**Conference believes that**

* access to a safe place to live is a basic human need;
* we must take a compassionate and human approach to tackling rough sleeping and homelessness;
* nobody experiencing homelessness should be forced to live in dangerous or transient accommodation.

**Conference calls on Welsh Government to**

* Provide additional funding to local authorities to ensure a variety of emergency accommodation and hostel offers, including those that provide ‘wet’ and ‘dry’ services, those that are made safe for women, LGBT and men experiencing violence or domestic violence, or sexual violence, etc;
* Urgently increase funding for Housing First provision across Wales as part of our approach to rapid rehousing of people sleeping rough;
* Work with local councils to reduce the number of prison leavers experiencing homelessness;
* Work to ensure that local authorities embrace the principles of assertive outreach in all elements of their work with people sleeping rough.