

To inform the meeting, Cardiff Councillors were invited to share their experience of supporting street homeless individuals who reside in their ward. One submission was received and is provided below.

Question: Have you any other comments you would like to make regarding street homeless service provision in Cardiff?

There is no specific provision for trans and non-binary people who find themselves at risk of homelessness/street sleeping, which causes significant concern for many. I have spoken to a voluntary organisation that provides support for trans/non binary people in Cardiff and their response is below. I do believe that there needs to be specific provision made available to avoid putting individuals at risk, or placing individuals in accommodation that they may find distressing or traumatising. This is something that I would like to explore further.

Hey! Thanks for reaching out! You're correct that Cardiff has no LGBTQ+ specific provisions for homeless people. In fact, the only one in all of Wales is Ty Pride, up in Rhyl. (It's well worth checking their impact reports out!) This has been a massive issue for trans people especially as they don't like to use gendered refuges, even when they're trans inclusive, due to the fear of being hate crimed. The cost-of-living impact has been huge and we had five trans people approach us last year, mostly in Cardiff, who had become homeless and due to no family connections had nowhere to go. Since founding we've had two people make us aware that they've either been sexually assaulted, or intimidated in an attempt to gain sex from strangers in Cardiff's homeless hostels. In one of these cases we submitted a formal complaint on behalf of the trans person, and we're told that as they didn't complain to staff when it happened, there was nothing that could be done. The same trans person also had no lock on their door, so had to leave the accommodation and sleep on the street that night. It's atrocious that trans people are put in these situations and as a result we've paid over £200 on B&B accommodation for homeless trans people to stay safe while Cardiff homelessness services scramble to find them a hostel that isn't actively dangerous to them. We were hopeful that the LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales, that was released earlier this year would tackle this issue by insisting each county have their own LGBTQ+ homeless provision. Unfortunately, despite a strong backing from community groups, the government has failed to commit to this. We're worried about the pressure this is going to place on community run groups like ours in the future, when we have no funding or training to deal with an influx of transgender homeless people who desperately need support. We're also worried that the government and homeless services are using us as a stopgap measure, with one of our volunteers even being asked by a housing options agent if we could just "cover the cost of a B&B until a placement is found." But three weeks on, that person had still not found a placement and it's incredibly upsetting the council isn't providing the services so desperately needed.

Further information on Ty Pride can be found [here](#).

Further information the LGBTQ+ Action Plan can be found [here](#).