



# Llamau

A step in the right direction for  
young homeless in Wales



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Ms Helen Mary Jones AM  
Chair, Children & Young People's Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
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2 November 2010

Dear Ms Jones

### **Please protect our Vulnerable People**

We now know the outcome of the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

Undoubtedly this is going to have severe repercussions for the people Llamau supports, since over 70% of our funding comes from the Welsh Assembly and local authorities. As you consider the Assembly's draft budget and its effects on policies and services, we are asking you to think very, very carefully about what this means for the people served by organisations such as Llamau.

The young people and vulnerable women we work with are already facing homelessness, poverty, abuse and discrimination, and have significant health and educational needs. Without exception, they are already disadvantaged and dispossessed. Our proven support methodology enables the majority to get their lives on track and live independently within their communities, contributing to, not taking from, the local economy. There is no question that our support makes a positive difference to the individuals themselves and consequently to the community at large. There seems little point in protecting the health budget if you cut the services that reduce the impact on health budgets, such as the work Llamau undertakes.

Our services include supported housing for 16 – 25 year olds, women only supported housing, refuges for women and children, housing and welfare advice services, family mediation, assertive outreach for teenagers on the brink of dropping out, and pre-vocational learning and training. We work closely with local authorities and other agencies within ten local authority areas in South Wales and have a reputation for being experts at what we do.

We have already seen an increase in the need for our services as the recession has taken hold. Significant cuts in our funding will inevitably reduce our services at a time when more and more vulnerable people are relying on us. We are already a very lean operation, but we are looking at where we can make further savings within the organisation while minimising adverse effects on service delivery.

The organisation achieves its planned results and learns from its experiences. Its results show improvements over time, and compares exceptionally well with similar organisations, providing excellent value for money and other stakeholders. During 2009/10 Llamau housed and supported 976 homeless or potentially homeless young people and women. Once again the support provided within Llamau has had a positive result on key support issues - Llamau saw a 94% positive outcome for service users leaving Llamau; an improvement over the last 6 years of 19%.

As you consider your budget priorities, we are appealing to you not to turn your back on the most disadvantaged and most vulnerable in our society and to put vulnerable people at the heart of their decision making in the budget. We need the Assembly to mitigate the impact that the UK government's decisions will have on the most vulnerable people in Wales.

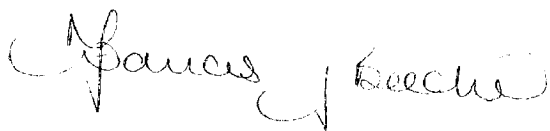
We need you to shout loudly for the sake of those who have no voice – they are relying on you – please don't let them down.

Llamau's specific requests:

- Please allow SPRG to stay with the WAG or another central body for the next three years of cuts, and build in a year's transition to allow us to prepare for this funding to go over to Local Authorities. Transferring now means more money taken from front line services for administration. This makes no sense.
- Please ensure that the demise of the EMA is replaced with educational financial support for the most vulnerable.
- Please support us so we can contribute to Wales' economic recovery.

Please get in touch if you would like to talk to me further.

Yours sincerely



**Frances J Beecher**  
Chief Executive