

Local Government Elections

Thursday 3rd May 2012

*dros adferiad
o afiechyd
meddwl difrifol*

hafal

*for recovery
from serious
mental illness*

VOTE FOR MENTAL HEALTH!



Did you know that 1 in 30 people will experience a serious mental illness like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder? That's around 100,000 people living in Wales!

Why not use **your vote** in the Local Government Elections to make sure that people with the highest needs in Wales – including people with serious mental illness – get reliable and consistent support from local councils?

What can you do? Contact your local candidates and get them to agree that local councils should prioritise people with the greatest needs! Hafal is Wales' principal charity working for and run by people with serious mental illness and their carers. Our 1,300 Members from across the 22 counties of Wales are calling on Local Government to make mental health a **priority** in the next four years by addressing these key issues:

- 1. We need a commitment from local councils to preserve and enhance services for those with the highest needs**, including those with serious mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. Local councils have a duty to focus their resources on the most vulnerable.
- 2. Social services need to play a full part in supporting people with a serious mental illness** – in partnership with the NHS – by providing responsive services that empower people to live independent lives. Every social services department in every council needs to ensure that mental health services are well-resourced. Every department needs a strong lead for mental health to represent the interests of service users and carers at the heart of social care provision.
- 3. Local councils need to support the delivery of the new Mental Health Measure** (Wales' new mental health law). The new law gives secondary mental health service users in Wales the right to a care plan which set goals in all areas of life. Local councils can support service users by providing excellent services in these life areas – for example, they should provide a range of quality housing, education and leisure opportunities which are accessible to people with a mental illness.
- 4. Local councils need to support carers.** They must provide carers with assessments of their needs and provide a range of support which meets those needs. Councils also need to ensure that when they implement the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure, specialist information, guidance and support for carers of people with a mental illness is provided.
- 5. Local councils should promote choice.** They should extend choice and control to mental health service users not only through direct payments but by providing a flexible and responsive approach to commissioning services on behalf of individual service users.

Remember – it's your right to have your say so use your vote and make mental health a priority!

For more information contact us at: Hafal, Suite C2, William Knox House, Britannic Way, Llandarcy, Neath SA10 6EL

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...and keep up to date with our campaigning by following us on Facebook and Twitter!