

## Housing in Wales: time to raise our game

### Keith Edwards on the launch of our new network – Housing Quality Network Cymru

If rugby is our national sport, then networking is surely our national pastime.

Of course, it's true that wherever you're from, when you're at a gathering of housing people you'll quickly see someone you know. And the proliferation of email groups and social media forums is no greater here than anywhere else.

But, in Wales, we take this to another level. Although it's an exaggeration to say everyone knows everyone, you're much more likely to bump into a familiar housing face when you're out shopping, or walking the dog or watching the football.

All of this means we know a lot about each other. Where we sometimes miss a trick, though, is in sharing our experiences and learning together.

As Professor Kevin Morgan famously said, good practice "doesn't travel well" here. Yet the need to spread the news about what works gets much more immediate.

Pressures on the sector to deliver value for money, to persevere with community benefits in tight times and, above all, to, in effect, double our new homes target mean we have to learn smart and learn fast.

That's where Housing Quality Network Cymru comes in – [click here](#) to find out more.

To mix my sporting analogies, Wales' great football success in the summer was built around the slogan and subsequent hashtag #TogetherStronger. The new Housing Quality Network Cymru is based on a similar premise – that the sector in Wales can deliver far more if it shares experiences and knowledge, and we need to embed this in how work together in the future.

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