

Housing Information Group (HIG) Meeting

18 October 2018

Caernarfon Room, Welsh Government Offices, Cathays Park, Cardiff

Attendees

Peter Mackie (PM)	Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)
Nia Roblin (NR)	United Welsh Housing Association
Andrew Connell (AC)	Wales Centre for Public Policy
John Harper	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Bob Smith	Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)
Jamie Matthews	Citizens Advice
Catherine May	Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru
Ceri Meloy	Tai Pawb
David Wilton	TPAS Cymru
Louise Woodfine	NHS Wales
Paul Webb (PW)	Welsh Government (Housing Policy)
Gowan Watkins (GW)	Welsh Government (KAS)
Luned Jones (LJ)	Welsh Government (KAS)
Sue Leake (SL)	Welsh Government (KAS)
Katherine Green (KG)	Welsh Government (KAS)
Judy David (JD)	Welsh Government (KAS)
Steve Palmer (SP)	Welsh Government (Housing Policy)
Mel Brown	Welsh Government (KAS)
Jamie Cleves	Welsh Government (KAS)
Samantha Collins (SC)	Welsh Government (KAS)
Craig Solomon (CS)	Welsh Government (KAS)
Gareth Brand	Welsh Government (KAS)
James Burgess	Welsh Government (Housing Policy)
Paul Robinson	Welsh Government (Planning Policy)
Simon White	Welsh Government (Housing Policy)
Simon Prothero	Welsh Government (Housing Policy)

Apologies

Sara Ahmad	Welsh Government
Lucie Griffiths	Welsh Government
Sarah Lowe	Welsh Government
Lesley Groves	Torfaen CBC
Mark Harris	House Builders Federation
Chantal Jordon	Carmarthenshire CC
Carol Kay	Welsh Government
Nick Morris	Crisis
Katie Needham	Monmouthshire Housing
Andrew Stephens	Data Unit Cymru
Karl Thomas	Welsh Government
Alyn Williams	Welsh Government
Michelle Lewis	Citizens Advice
Elizabeth Williams	Citizens Advice
Adam Provost	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

1. Welcome and introduction

PW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

LJ ran through the actions from the last meeting:

- Action 1 – LJ confirmed that quality assurance of homelessness data is continuing.
- Action 2 – not yet complete
- Action 3 – completed and SL to cover as part of agenda item
- Action 4 – attendees were asked to provide suggested topics for the seminar on 24 January 2019.

3. UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) – Update

BS gave a brief overview of the [UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence](#) (CaCHE) which is a consortium of 11 universities along with CIH and RICS led by the University of Glasgow. There are seven broad housing themes covered and some projects have now completed with reports to be published on their website including:

- The impact of welfare reform on housing associations
- Frustrated aspirations of generation rent
- Impact of taxation on household income

Two further reports are in the pipeline covering 'Homelessness prevention' and 'Changes in the rented sector'.

A series of reports around social housing published by CaCHE including one for Wales published in October 2018 will inform responses to the Green paper on housing in England and will inform the Affordable Housing Review in Wales.

A second workshop / Hub meeting was held in September with tenants and TPAS Cymru. This identified ten priority themes for possible future research projects in 2019 and feedback will be provided to the Wales Hub. This will reflect any differences in priorities across the four UK nations.

There are two forthcoming events, a Housing and Health event on 5 December 2018 and a Housing Research Event in January 2019.

Currently Ian Thomas (CaCHE) is working on a project with Welsh Government exploring the feasibility of collecting individual statutory homelessness data which will report in Spring 2019.

4. Wales Centre for Public Policy (WCPP) – update

AC gave an update on the three main, Welsh Government commissioned, pieces of work.

- Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathways – this is due to be published at the end of October
- Public Service Debts - a draft report looking at Council Tax arrears, rent arrears and support for tenants has been completed and is out for comment
- Future homelessness scenarios for Wales – this work is ongoing.

5. Update on key projects related to Housing statistics – Presentations Welsh Index of multiple deprivation – Samantha Collins (SC)

SC gave an overview of WIMD including the Housing domain and current developments. There is a consultation underway on the next update to WIMD which closes on 17 December. The consultation

response summary will be published Spring 2019 and the next update of WIMD is due to be published late 2019. Some new measures of deprivation proposed include general broadband availability and a health measure covering children of an unhealthy weight.

There have previously been limitations to the housing indicators used within WIMD due to lack of data at a small area level. The consultation proposes that the overcrowding indicator remain but the indicator on availability of central heating be replaced with a new measure of disrepair using category 1 hazards and Welsh Housing Quality standard (WHQS) data (for all tenures) using new Welsh Housing Conditions Survey data modelled to the small area level using administrative data sources. Consideration will be given to the weighting of the Housing domain within the overall index.

Webinar events will be held on 7 November and 3 December with a Welsh version on 29 November.

Action: JD to send out link to WIMD consultation to HIG members

Housing need and demand – Luned Jones

LJ provided an overview of the project. The current estimates of Housing need and demand were produced by Alan Holmans and published in 2015. There is an urgent need for more up-to-date estimates at a national and regional level to inform the National Development Framework as well as for ongoing housing policy decisions and to inform the [Review of Affordable Housing Supply](#).

A technical working group has been established which includes external local authority stakeholders and WLGA. The group reviewed approaches across the four UK nations and concluded that an Excel based Housing Need and Demand tool, developed by the Scottish Government, could be adapted through collaboration between Welsh and Scottish officials to meet our requirements.

Phase 1 will produce a high level national and regional estimate of future need for additional homes based on household projections and estimates of existing unmet need. This will be published early in 2019.

Phase 2 will provide a tenure split of the high level figures using assumptions about future income and house and rent prices. This will be published later in Spring 2019.

Alongside phase 1 and phase 2, Welsh Government officials will work with local authorities to consider how well the new tool fits alongside the existing LHMA process.

Welsh House Conditions Survey/HSAR - Gowan Watkins (GW) / Gareth Brand (GB)

GW provided an overview of the survey and latest developments. The first results from the survey will be published in the form of a high level summary at the end of November 2018. More detailed topic reports will follow in 2019 including a detailed fuel poverty report. A publication plan can be found on the [WHCS webpage](#).

GB provided an overview of the Housing Stock Analytical resource (HSAR) and progress update. GB has been working closely with ONS and liaising with a number of potential data suppliers. Data linkage work has already been carried out with the first few datasets obtained – Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs), Rent Smart Wales (RSW) and HMLR. Data cleansing and linkage work is continuing as well as consideration of data protection and GDPR.

The funding for this project was initially for three years ending March 2019. Approval is for a further two years funding is being sought.

Administrative Data Research Unit – Wales (ADRU–W) Craiger Solomons (CS)

CS provided an overview of the new unit within Knowledge and Analytical Services (KAS). The unit aims to dev question and identify the data available for analysis. Housing will be one of the first areas considered and the unit aim to improve access to other datasets to allow greater comparison across datasets and across the four UK countries. The unit will be working with the Administrative Data Research Centre – Wales (ADRC-W) to deliver research priorities.

ADRC-W – Peter Mackie (PM)

PM gave an update of this project which is part of the Administrative Data Research Partnership (ADRP) work plan. It replaces the previous ADRN and has funding for 2.5 years. Ian Thomas is the principal researcher with some input from PM. Proposed projects include looking at 'Living in the PRS' linking to data on health, mental health and education and the 'Impact of homelessness' again linking into data on education mental health and social care.

Cross government Housing Statistics work – Sue Leake (SL)

SL provided an overview of cross-government work in improving housing statistics.

In November 2017 the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) published a report on Housing and Planning statistics across the UK which included a number of recommendations for improvement including better collaboration between government departments across the UK. A Cross Government Housing Statistics working group was established in November 2017 and has developed a work plan in response to some of the recommendations in the OSR report. The group last met on 10 September 2018 and a [blog covering the work of the group](#) was published on the Government Statistical Service website on 26 September 2018. A [CGHSG action plan](#) has been published which will be updated periodically. The first topic report being produced collaboratively by the group, and covering the private rental sector, will be published in December 2018.

A GSS Steering Group on Housing Statistics was established May 2018 which is chaired by the deputy National Statistician and includes senior statistical representatives from UK government departments and the ONS. Its aim is to establish user need and agree high level priorities for housing statistics across the UK. This group has produced a high level statistical framework for housing and planning statistics. In August, a new [UK GSS Housing and Planning Statistics Webpage](#) went live. The page includes links to both an Overview and a Guide to Housing and Planning Statistics.

Action: JD to send all relevant links to HIG members

6. WG Housing Analytical Work (Update paper) – Judy David (JD)

JD covered the update paper which includes an outline of recently published and up and coming publications. The paper also outlines recent developments in relation to housing statistics, housing research projects and planning projects. It also includes information on Housing and Planning consultations.

7. A.O.B

PW asked attendees to consider possible themes for the HIG seminar in January 2019 or to contact us if they identified a particular item they would like covered.

JH informed the group that this would be his last meeting and he will let us know who will be replacing him to represent RICS. PW thanked JH on behalf of all HIG members for his considerable contribution to this group over a number of years.

8. Close and date of next meeting

- PW thanked everyone and closed the meeting.
- The next Housing Information event will be the annual seminar on 24 January 2019 in Cardiff.