



Welsh Government

Housing Information Group Meeting

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UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence

Briefing Paper: September 2020

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Introduction

The UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) is a consortium of 13 partners led by the University of Glasgow. The centre, which is funded by Economic and Social Research Council, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, is a multidisciplinary partnership between academics, housing policy and practice. Over the course of the five-year programme (2017-2022) it will produce evidence and new research which will aim to improve housing policy and practice across the UK

How we are organised: CaCHE is a UK wide research centre, with hubs located in London, Cardiff, Belfast, Glasgow and Sheffield. The administrative hub for the Centre is based within the University of Glasgow's Olympia Social Research Hub, in the East End of Glasgow.

Knowledge Exchange: CaCHE has established five Knowledge Exchange (KE) Hubs around the UK in relation to Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, South of England and the North/Midlands. Each hub brings together academics and the users of research to exchange ideas, evidence and expertise. The location of the KE Hubs is designed to ensure geographic reach and nationwide relevance, recognising that different parts of the UK face different challenges and have different sets of housing policies and priorities.

The CaCHE Wales Hub (along with the other CaCHE hubs across the UK) is co-creating housing research priorities, co-producing new projects and evidence and helping to shape and disseminate housing research to address housing problems and benefit housing policy in Wales.

Context

Previous briefing papers for the Housing Information Group were presented at the May and September 2019 meetings. The first of these is available on the Welsh Government website. See link below:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/housing-information-group-2019.pdf>

The above paper outlined the objectives of CaCHE, the structure of the Centre's research (which is organised around seven themes, with CaCHE having 10 priority areas within these themes for its ongoing work). It also detailed projects completed in 2018 and the early part of 2019 and set out information about new research projects commencing in 2019.

This information is not repeated here. However, detailed information about completed projects, published reports, and ongoing and proposed research studies are all set out on the CaCHE website, the link to which is provided in the final section of this paper (Contacts for Further Information).

The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief summary of activities since September 2019, to highlight published CaCHE reports and papers (including forthcoming work) and to draw attention to forthcoming events which may be of interest to policy makers, researchers and practitioners in Wales.

Housing Policy and COVID-19

Whilst CaCHE has worked with housing policy makers and practitioners to identify its key research priorities it has also retained a capacity to respond to changing circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives, the economy and wider society. The impact on households and housing has been enormous and earlier this year CaCHE announced a major new research project which focuses on housing policies and COVID-19 in order to better understand the challenges, how policies and interventions are changing across the UK and what all this means for a post COVID set of housing policies. The research is organised under 5 themes:

- **Homelessness**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **The economy, housing markets, incomes and housing costs**
- **Rented sector, evictions and activism**
- **Resilience and the housing system**

Across these five themes CaCHE researchers will be examining policy change over a period of around 15 months (from Summer 2019 to late 2020) tracking policy developments, conducting repeat interviews with key informants and drawing on wider evidence. Below is a link to a summary of the project by Professor Ken Gibb, the Centre's Director, introducing the research.

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/news/housing-policies-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

CaCHE has produced six short videos (two in relation to the resilience theme; one on housing systems and one on placemaking), each around 3-4 minutes long. There is a link below to the videos:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsvpiKQWX_wXHTw6WuN2obGuHT3qYS86v

Members of the Wales Knowledge Exchange Hub discussed the project in a virtual meeting at the end of July 2019 and a paper based on the discussions has been prepared and will be made available shortly.

It is anticipated that the Centre will publish a series of interim reports in relation to the research in October/November 2019 and final reports late next year.

Recently Published CaCHE Research

In addition to its new work in relation to the COVID-19 crisis CaCHE has continued to progress with its wider programme of work. The following reports and papers have been published between September 2019 and September 2020.

The Impact of Social Housing: Economic, Social, Health and Wellbeing. The link is here: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/the-impact-of-social-housing-economic-social-health-and-wellbeing/>

The Microeconomics of Private Housing Development and Land Markets. Link: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/the-micro-economics-of-private-housing-development-and-land-markets/>

Feasibility Study into new Case Level Homelessness Data Systems in Wales. Here is the link: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/feasibility-study-into-a-new-case-level-homelessness-data-system-for-wales/>

Improving Compliance with Private Rented Sector Legislation. Link is below: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/improving-compliance-with-private-rented-sector-legislation/> There are also two separate reports offering information for the UK and Devolved Governments and for Local Authorities.

Housing Need and Demand Assessment: An Evaluation and Illustrative pilot of the Scottish HNDA Tool in the Context of Northern Ireland. Link is here: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/housing-need-and-demand-assessment-an-evaluation-and-illustrative-pilot-of-the-scottish-hnda-tool-in-the-context-of-northern-ireland/>

Private Renters' Housing Experiences in Lightly Regulated Markets: Review of Qualitative Research. Link is here: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/private-renters-housing-experiences-in-lightly-regulated-markets-review-of-qualitative-research/>

Out of Harms Way? See link: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/out-of-harms-way/>

What's Going on in Scottish Local Authority Housing Finance? See link: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/whats-going-on-in-scottish-local-authority-housing-finance/>

Alternative Approaches to Resolving Housing Disputes. Here is the link:
<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/alternative-approaches-to-resolving-housing-disputes/>

Homeless Mothers: Key Research Findings. Link:
<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/homeless-mothers-key-research-findings/>

Forms and Mechanisms of Exclusion in Contemporary Housing Systems: A Scoping Study. Link is here: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/forms-and-mechanisms-of-exclusion-in-contemporary-housing-systems/>

Capturing increases in land value. Link is here:
<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/capturing-increases-in-land-value/>

Tenant Participation in the Private Rented Sector: A Review of Existing Evidence. Link is here: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/tenant-participation-in-the-private-rented-sector-a-review-of-existing-evidence/>

Understanding Social Housing Landlords' Approaches to Tenant Participation.
See link here: <https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/understanding-social-housing-landlords-approaches-to-tenant-participation/>

Visions of Scottish Housing. Link is below:
<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/visions-of-scottish-housing/>

Housing the Creative Sector. See link below:
<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/housing-the-creative-sector/>

The Feasibility Study into New Case Level Homelessness Data Systems in Wales was authored by Dr Ian Thomas (Wales Institute for Social Economic Research and Data - WISERD) and co-funded by Welsh Government. Several of the other reports have drawn upon material from Wales. We hope that many of the publications offer valuable learning for policy and practice in Wales.

Other Ongoing CaCHE Research

As well as the Housing Policies and COVID-19 research several other projects are underway. We have listed these below under the different CaCHE research themes.

Choice

Living in a small home

The geography of specialist housing for older people in England

Economy

The potential role of modular construction in addressing systemic supply issues

Governance

Are housing issues wicked issues?

Drivers of performance in social housing

Enabling community-led housing through local government

Good practice review of lesson sharing/learning and policy transfer

Rent control: evidence review

Understanding the discrepancies between the number of tenancies in the private rented sector and the number of deposits protected

Place

Delivering design value

High rise housing as sustainable urban intensification: international evidence review

Wider Drivers

The contested politics of residential space

Decarbonisation of the UK housing stock

Cross-cutting

Addressing poor quality housing in older age

Lived experience of suburbanised poverty: an international evidence review

Retrofit of pre-1919 Glasgow tenement housing: demonstration project

CaCHE has also been providing research support to the **All-Party Parliamentary Group on housing and Social Mobility**. This has involved a background review and analysis of written and oral evidence feeding into the main inquiry report which is due to be published in October 2019.

There is further information about individual projects on the CaCHE website.

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/our-work/research-projects/>

CaCHE Data Navigator

The CaCHE Data Navigator is a web application that enhances a researcher's ability to search, discover and download housing data related to the UK. The aim is to signal key data sources from the public and private sectors in an easy to use single location. There is a brief CaCHE News Item here:

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/news/launch-cache-data-navigator/>

There is also a recent briefing paper published by CaCHE examining key data sets to help our understanding of the private rented sector in the UK and how it is changing. The link is here:

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/briefing-paper-uk-private-rented-sector-data/>

Contacts for Further Information

Details of many of the research projects (including reports, working papers, policy briefings and blogs) can be found at:

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/>

Individuals can also sign up for regular email alerts and newsletters from the Centre.

<https://gla.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c4fd7f7e60d4f7ed013ed9742&id=7eee454548>

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