

## Housing Information Group (HIG) Meeting 24 September 2020

Attendees		
Thomas	Archer	Cardiff University
Lucy	Campbell	Welsh Government
Sian	Coggins	Welsh Government
Katie	Dalton	Cymorth Cymru
Jenny	Davies	Welsh Government
Keith	Davies	Ceredigion County Council
Rhian	Davies	Welsh Government
Alyson	Francis	Welsh Government
Craig	Gurney	University of Glasgow
Siwan	Gwyndaf	Welsh Government
Mark	Harris	Home Builders Federation Ltd
Darren	Hatton	Welsh Government
Llyr	Hughes	Ceredigion County Council
Amelia	John	Welsh Government
Dave	Jones	Welsh Government
Sue	Leake	Welsh Government
Nick	Lloyd	Welsh Government
Peter	Mackie	Cardiff University
Matt	Miller	Carmarthenshire County Council
Nick	Morris	Crisis
Juliet	Morris	Care and Repair Cymru
Jenny	Murphy	Newport City Homes
Richard	Murphy	Welsh Government
Faye	Patton	Care and Repair
Cerys	Purches-Phillips	Ceredigion County Council
Sam	Rees	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Sarah	Rhodes	Welsh Government
Liam	Richards	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Nia	Roblin	United Welsh Housing Association
Gary	Seaman	Housemark
Ross	Thomas	Tai Pawb
Hermione	Warmington	CLA
Gowan	Watkins	Welsh Government
Louise	Woodfine	NHS Wales
Alicja	Zalesinka	Tai Pawb

Apologies		
Angie	Bowen	Carmarthenshire County Council
Samantha	Collins	Welsh Government
Robert	Dangerfield	CLA Cymru
Lisa	Dobbins	Welsh Government
Janine	Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council
Holly	Flynn	Welsh Government
Holly	Flynn	Welsh Government
Chantal	Jordan	Carmarthenshire County Council
Hayley	Macnamara	Community Housing Cymru Group
Paul	Robinson	Welsh Government
Kirsty	Wells	Housemark

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Amelia John (AJ), Welsh Government (WG) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as the new Deputy Director for Housing Policy.

### 2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Due to the last meeting being September 2019, AJ suggested not going through the last meeting minutes (there were no outstanding actions). There was no further comment from the group.

### 3. Discuss updating the Terms of Reference

AJ introduced the need to revisit the Group's Terms of Reference and membership list. There are several groups who have asked to be invited in future. There were no immediate questions or comments. To be revisited in the next HIG meeting.

- **Action** – HIG members to email WG any comments and changes to Terms of Reference and members.

### 4. Harmful Home – an overview of the post-pandemic home and further research

Craig Gurney (CR), University of Glasgow, presented on the post-pandemic view of the home and opportunities for further research.

The presentation covered the existing theory and the framework for understanding the post-pandemic home, conceptualising the home as a place of harm in policy analysis. The presentation then discussed Covid-19 examples of harm in the home, what is the existing evidence base, setting out a potential agenda for further research. Geography of harm.

The discussion following the presentation focused on:

- The complexities of multigenerational households and high density housing rather than a simplistic focus on overcrowding
- the implications of those currently in temporary accommodation, the longer term impacts and the move towards rapid rehousing
- the implications of future homeworking/working remotely and the design of homes
- using this work to look through the lens of Children and Young People.

## **5. Homelessness Data**

Sarah Rhodes (SR), Welsh Government, updated on Covid related changes to the homelessness data capture (including data on emergency accommodation and rough sleeping); plans to look at homelessness data in the round (including Supporting People/Housing Support Grant, homelessness, SHIN, etc.). SR highlighted that will be looking to the HIG in future to support this work.

No comments but questions raised about looking at further outcomes, and the potential of individual level homelessness data.

## **6. Housing and Equalities**

Alyson Francis (AF), Welsh Government highlighted the housing related issues that have been apparent during the pandemic and explored as part of the BAME Advisory Group (including separate socio-economic sub-group); feedback from Disability Equality Forum (mixed bag of views – construction/ design of homes and accommodation); and the impacts of domestic abuse and relationship breakdown.

Sue Leake (SL), Welsh Government, provided a presentation on the statistical input into the BAME Advisory group review and socio-economic subgroup, and provided some useful information from geographic spread of deprivation from WIMD 2019 and the housing domain.

Alijca Zalensinska's (AZ), Tai Pawb presentation on the evidence on the impact on different groups of the Covid lockdown included highlighting the impact on adaptations services; access and quality of PPE; those with no recourse to public funds; and mental health. She also discussed the importance of looking at the impact using the social model of disability and the impact of immigration policies.

There were no immediate discussion about the presentation but speakers welcomed comments and questions after the meeting.

## **7. Update of The Housing Conditions Evidence Programme (HCEP)**

SL updated on the HCEP, including the movement of HCEP resources to support Covid analysis. The National Survey for Wales has moved to a monthly

telephone survey during the pandemic and work is ongoing to discuss the implications of this on the plans for another Welsh House Conditions Survey (WHCS) (The WHCS sample is a subset of the National Survey for Wales sample).

During the pandemic advances have been made in linking data in the Housing Stock Analytical Resource (HSAR) platform to other data sets to support the Covid responses.

## **8. 2021 Census (Paper & Q&A)**

SL updated (based around Census paper available online) that the next census will be on 21 March 2021, and there is work underway to make it Covid secure. It will be the first census to be undertaken predominantly online with support provided to those who are unable to do so online. The paper also specifically sets out how the census will relate to housing and households.

Work is ongoing about how to better use administrative data and the implications for the future of the census.

There was discussion about completion of the Census for those who are digitally excluded. SL added that there would be alternative resources available for them. There will also be a Census Digital Assistance programme.

## **9. CaCHE Update – including Covid-19 workplan**

Peter Mackie (PM), Cardiff University, summarised a few highlights of his work. This included a repurposing of research questions to be Covid related among housing programmes.

A crisis response piece of work will be available in October. PM talked about the difficulties of systematically trying to document everything that has occurred.

By February/March 2021, they intend to assess the extent to which aspirations have been achieved and whether there were any unintended consequences.

Overview of research highlights from different strands within CaCHE:

- Rented Sector: PM has been exploring activism and tenants.
- Resilience in the housing sector: all the lessons learned from the 2007 financial crash and its impact on the housing market.
- Private Housing Sector: compliance issues with legislation.

CACHE Wales Hub: Views from Stakeholder research will be out in October 2020.

PM also talked about the Admin Data Partnership within ESRC which has a strand on Local Authority data regarding housing and homelessness. There has been scope to carry out some data linking between education, health and south Wales police data. For example, there has been some research looking at

school attendance of children from homeless families. PM credited Ian Thomas for his contribution to this.

Repeat Homelessness:

PM discussed his work looking at individual level data in repeat homelessness and the important distinctions in its definition e.g. one year vs “ever”.

There was discussion around what might be driving the numbers of repeat homelessness. It was suggested it could be due to a short-term approach to homelessness in terms of retention emergency/temporary accommodation rather than looking at the bigger longer-term picture.

## **10.AOB**

Dave Jones (DJ) advised that a paper was circulated to members in August 2020, describing current plans for housing data collections and publications relating to 2019-20. This included WHQS and affordable housing statistics.

DJ wanted to draw people’s attention to the recent report for [Annual Estimates of Dwelling stock](#) for Welsh Housing Stats. Initially there was an error relating to local authorities, but this has now been revised.

AJ mentioned that the next Housing Information Group seminar will be taking place on Thursday 28 Jan 2021 and will specifically look at housing information and Covid-19.

The next Housing Information Group regular meeting will be on 20 May 2021.

### **Action:**

1. HIG members to email any comments and changes to Terms of Reference and members. [stats.housing@gov.wales](mailto:stats.housing@gov.wales)