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Social Housing Allocations Feasibility Study

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Glossary

Glossary text

Acronym/Key word	Definition
RSL	Registered social landlord
LHMA	Local Housing Market Assessments
CORE	Continuous Recording of Social Housing Lettings and Sales System England
Street Homeless	“‘Street homeless’ (‘digartref ac ar y stryd’), in relation to a person, means that the person has no accommodation available for the person’s occupation in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, which the person – a) is entitled to occupy by virtue of an interest in it or by virtue of an order of a court; b) has an express or implied licence to occupy; or, c) occupies as a residence by virtue of an enactment or rule of law giving the person the right to remain in occupation or restricting the right of another person to recover possession;”- Code of Guidance Addendum

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Welsh Government approach to housing is largely informed by the [National Housing Strategy, Improving Lives and Communities \(2010\)](#)¹ and the [Housing White Paper \(2012\)](#)². Several of the commitments, particularly those relating to homelessness and allocations, such as providing more housing of the right type and offering more choice, and improving housing related services and support, particularly for vulnerable people, have been brought into effect by the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)³. Local Authorities in Wales follow the statutory [Welsh Government Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness](#) to guide them in their functions under the Act⁴. With increasing demand for social housing, it is important that Local Authorities, Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), are all working together to fulfil the duties placed on Local Authorities under the Act, to address housing need.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government commissioned Alma Economics to undertake a feasibility study to understand existing data collections and monitoring arrangements, as well as processes and decisions about allocating social housing across Local Authorities in Wales. This report is the write-up of that activity.
- 1.3 For this purpose, in-depth interviews were conducted with four Local Authorities in Wales. The Local Authorities participating in this research were selected by the Welsh Government as they have different approaches to allocating social housing and would therefore help to understand the feasibility of undertaking a larger research project across all social landlords in Wales. Two of the selected Local Authorities hold their own social housing stock, while the other two do not. They are also geographically spread, in order to be as representative of Wales as possible.

¹ [Improving Lives and Communities: Housing in Wales - Health Inequalities \(health-inequalities.eu\)](#)

² [A White Paper for better lives and communities | GOV.WALES](#)

³ [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴ [Allocation of accommodation and homelessness: guidance for local authorities | GOV.WALES](#)

- 1.4 The interviews covered different topics around social housing allocations, including data availability, coverage, quality and consistency, definitions of housing need, prioritisation and decision-making processes across Local Authorities.
- 1.5 Findings from this targeted feasibility study will feed into the design of wider research aiming to collect and analyse data on social housing allocations, as well as explore decision making in Local Authorities and social landlords in relation to allocations.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 This research looked to understand existing data and processes for social housing allocations in a sample of the Local Authorities. This includes current practice of social landlords (what criteria and processes they use), and to identify possible best practice with regards to social housing allocations. This data will be used to inform the viability of a pan-Wales research project. The key methods employed in this research were a targeted desk-based research activity (reviewing existing data on social housing allocations), and interviews with key stakeholders from the selected Local Authorities. As the nature of this research was a feasibility study, it used a very small sample of four Local Authorities. This means the findings cannot be seen as an accurate representation of what is happening in all Local Authorities or activity undertaken by social landlords in Wales. Instead it provides an insight into the viability of a research project across Wales.. Any further research would look to include RSL perspectives.

Desk-based research

- 2.2 The first phase of the project involved desk-based research which was used to help understand the current landscape of Social Housing allocations, to support fieldwork with selected Local Authorities. The documents which were reviewed are listed below:

- Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness (WG 2016)⁵
- Understanding Social Housing Evictions in Wales (WG 2019)⁶
- Allocation of Social Housing Report (Shelter Cymru 2020)⁷
- Rethinking Allocations (Chartered Institute of Housing 2019)⁸
- National statistics on social lettings⁹

Interviews

- 2.3 Interviews were used to look in closer detail at data availability, coverage, quality and consistency across the sample of Local Authorities, as well as the definitions of need for housing, prioritisation and decision-making processes. The four Local Authorities selected represent different approaches to the allocation of social housing, as well as different patterns of housing need.
- 2.4 In-depth interviews with staff from the sampled Local Authorities, responsible for social housing data collection and reporting, were undertaken during September-October 2022 via videoconferencing or by phone. The interview guide can be found at Annex A. These interviews aimed to understand different types of data held, as well as assessing quality and consistency, existing monitoring, and decision-making processes on social housing allocation. They also aimed to understand existing practices and processes around deciding about allocations of social housing.

Caveats

- 2.5 This research was intended to assess the feasibility of undertaking a larger research project across Wales. Therefore, it does not take into account the views,

⁵ [Allocation of accommodation and homelessness: guidance for local authorities | GOV.WALES](#)

⁶ [Understanding social evictions in Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

⁷ [Allocation-of-Social-Housing-Report.pdf \(sheltercymru.org.uk\)](#)

⁸ [Rethinking allocations \(cih.org\)](#)

⁹ [Social housing lettings \(gov.wales\)](#)

experiences or data of all those involved in social housing allocations in Wales. The results should be seen as indicative of issues or topics that should be explored in more detail through further research.

3. Findings

This chapter focuses on findings.

Definitions of need for social housing

3.1 Sampled Local Authorities use similar broad categories to identify and assess need for social housing including:

- at-risk of homelessness, already homeless and/or being owed a homelessness duty under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- inadequate housing (e.g., overcrowding or unliveable/insanitary)
- health & safety (disabilities, fleeing domestic abuse, mental health)
- economic reasons (unaffordability, rent arrears, employment/training and earnings)

3.2 Sampled Local Authorities stated they prioritise applicants who are considered to be in need of housing as defined in the context of the Code of Guidance— specifically, applicants owed homelessness duties, supporting survivors of domestic abuse, people with disability and/or mental illness, care leavers, people sleeping rough and the elderly. This is consistent with those recognised in legislation as being a ‘priority need’ category for accommodation when presenting as homeless. In 2020, at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, a ‘no one left out’ approach was introduced by the Welsh Government, to ensure that those who were street homeless, or facing street homelessness, would be classed as vulnerable, according to section 70 of the Housing Wales Act (2014). In October 2022, legislation was strengthened to formalise this approach, and the Homelessness (Priority Need and Intentionality)

(Wales) Regulations 2022¹⁰ came into force, recognising ‘street homelessness and those at risk of becoming street homeless as an eleventh ‘priority need’ category.

Trends in need for social housing

- 3.3 The feasibility study research suggests that lately, there has been a rapid increase in demand for social housing. There is also recent data on homelessness accommodation provision and rough sleeping,¹¹ as well as information on the number of households accepted as homeless, reasons for homelessness and the number of households in temporary accommodation¹², which reinforce these findings. The Local Authorities involved with this research cited similar reasons for increases in need for social housing, including inflation and unaffordable rents in the private rented sector. Sampled Local Authorities specifically mentioned increased applications for social housing post-COVID 19, with one Local Authority stating that they “used to get 40-50 calls a day, now its closer to 150-180”. It was also mentioned that -*“The housing crisis across Wales and the country broadly causes strain on both sides, and we are under pressures that are equal to if not more than COVID-19 times. Moving into a period of increased austerity, it is important to recognise that inflation and austerity has a real impact on people. It is also important to think about what we can do to help even though our budgets are also very tight.”* (Sampled Local Authority, 2023)
- 3.4 Sampled Local Authorities generally cited that post-COVID19, the increase in housing demand has disproportionately affected those with complex needs; young people; and single males.

¹⁰ [The Homelessness \(Priority Need and Intentionality\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

¹¹ [Homelessness accommodation provision and rough sleeping: November 2022 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

¹² [Homelessness \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

Data sources & use

- 3.5 A key element of this feasibility study was to understand the data currently held in Local Authorities and its availability, in order to understand and design a larger pan-Wales research project.
- 3.6 Applications for social housing are an important source of data for the sampled Local Authorities. This is where Local Authorities obtain relevant information to assess housing need. This is also where demographic information on applicants is collected, though interviews suggests that there is inconsistency in terms of indicators across sampled Local Authorities. Most sampled Local Authorities appear to collect data on demographic indicators that are relevant to different definitions of need – for example, including disability, family size or financial housing histories. There also appear to be some inconsistencies in the collection of data on other protected characteristics, including age, gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation amongst sampled Local Authorities.
- 3.7 Data quality challenges experienced by the sampled Local Authorities include applicants not filling in all the data requested as part of the application process, thus resulting in substantial gaps in available data.
- 3.8 Data from housing applications are used to inform decisions about placing applicants on housing registers. Sampled Local Authorities also use this data to understand need for social housing – for example, number of applicants with a mental or physical disability. Local Authorities without a common housing register may not have access to relevant information on need for social housing and applicant characteristics in their area, as applicants are going direct to registered social landlords instead.
- 3.9 Interviewees indicated that housing registers can contain important information on housing need, based on the band an individual is allocated to. This allows for the ability to distinguish individuals who are street homeless (rough sleeping) or experiencing or at risk of homelessness within the housing register. As applicants are offered housing and are thus removed from the housing register, Local Authorities can also observe data on decisions based on need and demographic characteristics.

- 3.10 Data on length of stay within housing registers in addition to any unreasonable refusals is also collected by the sampled Local Authorities.
- 3.11 Data on decisions about allocations of social housing to applicants (lettings) by letting type is reported to the Welsh Government and is part of published national statistics on social housing allocation¹³, so there should be a level of consistency in reporting across Local Authorities. This data is often used by sampled Local Authorities to understand performance in addressing need for social housing – for example, to monitor progress in providing suitable housing to people in homelessness. In particular, the indicator capturing the percentage of homeless applicants who move into social housing is cited as a key performance indicator across sampled Local Authorities.
- 3.12 Local Authorities reported they collate data on the number of social housing units that are available within the Local Authority. This source includes indicators such as number of bedrooms and details about the neighbourhood. While number of available units is reported to the Welsh Government, data on their characteristics are held by the different social housing providers (e.g. LAs, RSLs) depending on who owns the stock?. Information on specific units is used to inform applicants on available housing. It is also used for internal purposes within the sampled Local Authorities– mainly to ensure each offer of an allocation meets the needs of an applicant. Stock-holding Local Authorities sampled have direct access to information on their own units, while others rely on data from RSLs.

Other data availability to support Allocations

- 3.13 Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs) include estimates of existing and future housing need. They also feature an overview of the local housing market including information on social housing stock, as well as on tenants. They play a key role in shaping Local Authority Development Plans and Local Housing Strategies. Sampled Local Authorities mentioned that they review their assessments on an annual basis, even though they might publish new releases less regularly – for example, every five years.

¹³ [Social housing lettings \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/social-housing-lettings)

- 3.14 Importantly, sampled Local Authorities also mentioned that Housing Teams might use homelessness data collated by other teams within the Local Authority to support their work on social housing allocations, but less frequently/consistently. This could be explored further to understand the extent of this issue across Wales.
- 3.15 There appears to be substantial variation across the sampled Local Authorities in terms of the sources of information they use, as well as their data processing mechanisms. Interviewees mentioned that data is stored in various internal (or external) databases, and it is not always straightforward to extract information without external support. The lack of common processing mechanisms within Local Authorities (and also between Local Authorities and RSLs) does not allow for transparency and clarity in understanding need for social housing when making allocation decisions.
- 3.16 Sampled Local Authorities appear willing to share data, both with partners and externally upon request. However, due to data being stored in multiple locations, both within the Local Authority and likely within RSLs, data sharing is a struggle for sampled Local Authorities. A lack of streamlined processing systems, as well as of teams of specialists, results in Local Authorities not having the capacity to deal with data requests in a timely manner. Importantly, sampled Local Authorities understand the need for effective data sharing across and within organisations, but outlined that they are prevented from doing so, due to limited ability to identify and extract required data. This should be explored further to understand the extent of this issue across Wales. .
- 3.17 Sampled Local Authority representatives highlighted the need for consistent and regular reporting and analysis of existing data, citing this as key area for improvement. For some sampled Local Authorities, there appears to be a segregation between Housing Strategy Teams and Homelessness teams, where Homelessness teams tend to report on key data and conduct more in-depth analysis about housing need than Housing Strategy Teams undertake. There also appears to be knowledge deficits in regards to data on individuals looking to be housed between teams within the sampled Local Authority, which is amplified by lack of internal communication channels and processes. For example, one

interviewee had very limited understanding of the data held by the Local Authority, after a staff member had recently left their position.

- 3.18 This feasibility study suggests that while some Local Authorities with housing stock may have access to richer data on social housing, they do not necessarily conduct more in-depth analysis than Local Authorities without housing stock. While in theory Local Authorities can access the data necessary to understand and monitor demand for social housing and efforts to address it, they do not have the capacity to bring together different data sets and analyse this data so it can feed into decisions around social housing supply, policies and strategies in a consistent manner.
- 3.19 Common housing registers are used in most areas in Wales, and they provide important tools for understanding need and monitoring allocation decisions, as well as ensuring access on key information in these areas. Common housing registers also help improve the quality of available data and enable data sharing across key actors (including Local Authorities and social landlords).
- 3.20 Clear definitions of homelessness (and homelessness duties), as well as recognition of protected characteristics, enable some Local Authorities to collect a rich set of data on applicants' need for housing and important demographic characteristics. This data can feed into robust analysis of social housing allocation decisions and performance in meeting need among people from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds. Though current data structures amongst sampled Local Authorities appear to hinder connections between protected characteristics and housing need, this study shows that there are Local Authorities which can link these types of information, to potentially inform their decision making.

Pathways to accessing housing

- 3.21 The sampled Local Authorities suggested three ways applicants for social housing can contact the Local Authority as an initial point of contact, through: (i) an online application, (ii) a phone call, or (iii) referrals. Data collected at this stage by Local Authorities is then used to assess level of need.
- 3.22 Using their own allocations policy and the Welsh Government Code of Guidance, sampled Local Authorities assess applicants' level of need. This assessment then

determines where applicants will be placed on the housing register. As discussed, applicants in or at risk of homelessness and those falling in the 'priority need' categories set out in the Code of Guidance and legislation are considered top priority by sampled Local Authorities. Sampled Local Authorities expressed concern that some Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) may not prioritise individuals that have high need according to Local Authority standards (such as those who are homeless with complex needs) as they consider these applicants not being 'tenancy ready'. Those Local Authorities without their own housing stock, often address demand for housing among homeless people with high levels of need (based on the above criteria) through extended stays in temporary accommodation, sometimes up to and beyond two years.

- 3.23 Sampled Local Authorities appear to use consistent definitions and sources (such as the Code of Guidance on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness) for assessing need and prioritising applications. There is some misalignment described by participants between Local Authorities and RSLs as to what it means to be 'tenancy ready' – this means that some applicants can be denied RSL housing, even if the Local Authority would assess them as having high and/or urgent need.
- 3.24 The sampled Local Authorities appear to use similar band systems to categorise priorities within the housing register. Applicants in higher bands tend to have higher and more urgent need.
- 3.25 Top bands typically include those who are in urgent need of moving into social housing (for example, people who are homeless or have poor/unsatisfactory living conditions). Urgent need can also include safety or health concerns. For example, a Local Authority representative mentioned *"If someone lives in a third floor flat with no lift and has suddenly become paraplegic, they must move. They're put into the highest band"*. The sampled Local Authorities appear to share similar definitions and priorities for the top bands within the housing register.
- 3.26 Middle bands tended to include the bulk of applicants who have some housing need aligned with the Local Authority's allocation policy, that is less immediately urgent than higher bands.

- 3.27 Bottom bands tended to include applicants with no housing need, but who want to be on the register to possibly access more affordable housing. The lowest band will often include those who want to be on the list but are not considered to have a housing need or necessarily be ready for tenancy, perhaps because they have significant debts or rent arrears.
- 3.28 Some criteria within bands differed across sampled Local Authorities – for example, some might prioritise applicants from a certain profession (such as key workers) to address local need. Other sampled Local Authorities also separate criteria into different bands – for example, having a local connection is translated into placement in a higher band. This should be explored further to understand the variation in the number and definitions of bands across Wales.
- 3.29 Sampled Local Authorities appear to share the same overarching objective – they aim to house people who need it. The feasibility study highlighted there can be disagreement between sampled Local Authorities and the RSLs they work with in terms of decisions about allocating social housing. All Local Authorities that were interviewed stated that they had experienced some level of misalignment between their priorities and RSLs’ definition of ‘tenancy ready’, citing that RSLs tended to be more risk averse. Sampled Local Authorities felt RSLs could be more discerning in terms of allowing individuals with high level of needs or bad housing histories to be accommodated in their facilities. This misalignment is especially apparent for sampled Local Authorities who do not have their own housing stock, and therefore have less control over social housing allocation. For example, a sampled Local Authority representative mentioned that they [RSLs] *“are supposed to allocate 70% of homeless applicants to RSLs, but current figures are closer to 37%”*. For sampled Local Authorities with housing stock, individuals rejected from an RSL are then allocated to the Local Authority’s own housing instead resulting in concentrated housing areas of individuals with complex needs, which could act as a barrier to social inclusion within the wider community.
- 3.30 In most areas across Wales, common housing registers are used within Local Authorities¹⁴. This means that the Local Authority manages a single social housing

¹⁴ [Local authority survey of Accessible Housing Registers | GOV.WALES](#)

register for all RSLs and their own housing stock, if they are stock-holding. When a social housing unit becomes available (either through an RSL or the Local Authority's own stock), it is allocated to applicants in the higher bands either chronologically or through a Choice based lettings scheme, allowing registered applicants to bid for available homes. If no one from a higher band accepts the offer, sampled Local Authorities move down to the next band of applicants.

- 3.31 Managing the common housing register gives Local Authorities control over both allocation decisions and information on applicant characteristics. Evidence from this feasibility study suggests that there are three Local Authorities within Wales which do not currently share a common housing register. This means that applications for social housing are managed through separate housing registers for the Local Authority and RSLs. This is seen by sampled Local Authorities to result in a lack of transparency and streamlined communication – which can cause problems especially for Local Authorities not owning social housing stock. Sampled Local Authorities appear to have much more control over allocations of social housing in their area, if they manage a shared housing register with other housing providers.

Findings: Data from the Local Authorities

- 3.32 This section summarises the findings from the feasibility study with 4 Local Authorities in Wales.
- 3.33 The Local Authorities sampled struggle to meet demand for social housing, all citing significant increases in the post-COVID19 world. This puts increased pressures on staff. One Local Authority stated that they have *“9,000 people on the register, adding about 100 every month.”* Many individuals and households on the housing register in the highest bands and of the most urgent need are trapped in temporary accommodation, sometimes for as long as two years.
- 3.34 Participating Local Authorities mentioned having some difficulties with RSLs in relation to social housing allocations. RSLs were seen to be more risk averse, avoiding housing applicants with complex needs or significant rent arrears.
- 3.35 Local Authorities which own social housing stock are able to provide an outside option for applicants denied RSL housing. For Local Authorities without housing

stock, they have no outside option for applicants denied RSL housing resulting in individuals staying in temporary accommodation over long periods of time.

- 3.36 The inconsistency between Local Authorities and RSLs prioritisation and level of risk can lead to blocks of housing stock with only complex need and high-risk individuals, creating segregation within communities and increased pressures on sampled Local Authority housing staff. For sampled Local Authorities with no housing stock, this inconsistency results in social housing going to people who are priced out from the private rented sector but are without complex needs, while people with complex needs do not get access and have little option other than to stay in temporary accommodation.
- 3.37 Common housing registers are seen as an important tool providing Local Authorities with control over need assessments and allocation decisions. This is particularly important for the sampled Local Authorities without housing stock, who reported facing substantial barriers to housing people with complex needs without access to a common housing register.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The variety shown between the small number of sampled Local Authorities in this feasibility study supports the need for further research to understand social housing allocations across all social landlords in Wales. This section discusses conclusions based on the research findings in relation to the feasibility of a wider, pan-Wales research project.
- 4.2 Future research should focus on working with Local Authorities and registered social landlords to identify sets of indicators that are central to social housing allocation decision making and policies. For example, types of need and demographic characteristics of applicants in temporary accommodation and on housing registers. Data sources and owners should also be identified for each indicator of interest.
- 4.3 A comprehensive data collection exercise could be carried out to collate data on these key indicators from different sources (held by Local Authority homelessness teams and social landlords). This would allow the Welsh Government and wider stakeholders to gain a detailed understanding of gaps and challenges in existing data collections in relation to social housing allocations.
- 4.4 It should be noted that this is expected to be demanding in terms of resources, but it is considered a key step for understanding decision making processes across the country, identifying potential delivery barriers as well as best practice and introducing targeted reforms to support the transformation of housing services for homeless households.
- 4.5 Data could then be analysed centrally to understand housing need; support the transformation of services to homeless households; and, recognise the effectiveness of partnerships; to address the issues in each Local Authority area. This work could focus on best practice and areas for improvement.
- 4.6 For example, ensuring that allocations activity reflects the housing needs of homeless households and ensures that Local Authorities and social landlords are able to meet their duties under housing and equalities legislation.

4.7 A common database including data on key indicators from all Local Authorities in Wales, as well as a template for reporting on these indicators would be useful outputs from this research. These could also be used by the Welsh Government, Local Authorities and other stakeholders in the future to take evidence-based policy and intervention decisions.

5. Recommendations

5.1 This feasibility study identified potential changes for Local Authorities and RSLs that could improve the data relating to social housing allocations in Wales. The study was small but gives a strong indication that further research is required to understand variation and the extent of that variation across Wales and to assess whether housing allocation activity is meeting the needs of homeless households.

5.2 Further research should be undertaken to identify to what extent there is need for Local Authorities to invest in developing systems for collecting and storing data which is currently held by different teams, departments and/or organisations (for example, on housing need, demographic and protected characteristics of applicants and tenants, lettings, emergency arrangements, and social housing stock and unit characteristics). This exercise would help to inform the analysis of homelessness housing need, to then ensure the development and allocation of social housing stock is undertaken in a way to respond to the issue of homelessness (and where possible prevent it) whilst also to support households to access permanent or settled housing.

Data collection and analysis, through a larger research project would help to understand the current approach to housing allocations across Wales and provide insight as to whether there is a potential mismatch between the objective of ending homelessness and the allocation of social housing, and if so to what extent. It will also support the development of the evidence base that can feed into and inform policy decisions, and thus improve performance in addressing the need for social housing.

5.3 Further research could also help to identify what data sharing mechanisms are required between Local Authorities and RSLs to reduce barriers and challenges faced in sharing information, and improve transparency and clarity on coordinated efforts undertaken. This will especially help those Local Authorities who do not own social housing stock, to get a better understanding of needs and priorities, as well as improved outcomes for people in need. This could also help to speed up move on and less time in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

5.4 This feasibility study also suggests there may be scope for developing a national social housing database that, along with real-time homelessness data, which will allow the Welsh Government and Local Authorities to monitor progress towards addressing demand for housing, identify and benchmark against best practice, and explore challenges and ways to address them. The continuous recording of lettings and sales in social housing in England (CORE)¹⁵ is an example of best practice in creating a national source of information on social housing lettings and tenants covering Local Authorities and RSLs. Further research would help develop an evidence base which could be used to explore a national social housing database for Wales.

¹⁵ [Continuous recording of social housing lettings and sales system \(CORE\): guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/continuous-recording-of-social-housing-lettings-and-sales-system-core)

Annex A: Interview Guide

Types of definitions & available data

- What definitions are being used by Welsh Local Authorities and RSLs with regards to social housing allocations (for example, need for housing, eligibility & priorities, pathways to social housing)?

Do these differ between organisations?

- What different indicators are being used by Welsh Local Authorities and RSLs on topics related to social housing allocations (eg social lettings, vacancies, no of households in social housing etc)?

- What data is available on demographics – with particular attention to protected characteristics including ethnicity, age, disability, family household type

How does this data differ across Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords?

- Can homeless households or those who may be vulnerable to homelessness, as defined within the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, be distinguished in the data?

Are there any gaps in this data?

Data collection, consistency and quality

- How is data on social housing allocations collected, held and cleaned across the Welsh Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)
- To what extent are data holders willing or able to share social housing allocations data for further analysis
- Whether there is equivalency in data collection, coverage and availability of data across the Welsh Local Authorities and RSLs, and to what extent the data can be analysed as a whole or compared like for like
- What challenges and barriers are likely to be encountered with regards to the quality, coverage and availability of social housing allocations across Wales?
- What methodologies in terms of data gathering and data analysis should be considered for allowing an in-depth analysis of housing allocation rates?