



Welsh Government

Housing Information Group Meeting

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UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence

Briefing Paper: May 2019

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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, it will produce evidence and new research which will aim to improve housing policy and practice across the UK. CaCHE has been operating since 1st August 2017 and was officially launched at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in London on 18th October 2017.

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. A separate launch was held in Wales in December 2017 at Cardiff University, with presentations on evidence gaps and research priorities from key organisations (Welsh Government, Office for Statistics Regulation, Home Builders Federation, Design Commission for Wales, Community Housing Cymru and Shelter Cymru). The discussions were summarised in a short article, "**Transforming the housing evidence base in Wales**", in Welsh Housing Quarterly in January 2018.

Objectives of the Centre

1. Establish an independent housing evidence centre;
2. Provide a pipeline of evidence that fills current gaps, responds to emerging priorities and new demands;
3. Embed evidence in housing policy & practice, with a specific challenge to address poverty and inequality;

4. Promote innovation, and encourage and facilitate researchers to generate robust housing evidence;
5. Promote effective utilisation of available data through its development, integration and sharing;
6. Learn from housing's past to inform the future.

Structure of CaCHE Research

The Centre operates under 7 broad themes:

1. Economy
2. Governance
3. Place
4. Markets
5. Choice
6. Wider drivers
7. Homelessness

However, following an extensive consultation exercise with stakeholders and tenants across the UK in the spring/summer of 2018 the Centre has identified 10 priority areas for future research. In no particular order these are:

- Housing affordability
- Increasing housing supply
- Private renting
- Homelessness
- Housing needs and demand
- Policy evaluation methods
- What does a fixed housing system look like?
- Customer voice and engagement
- Planning and place making
- Health, care and housing

Completed Projects

2019

- How does the land supply system affect the business of UK speculative house building? An evidence review (February 2019)
- Housing insecurity and mental health: An evidence review (March 2019). This was undertaken in collaboration with Mind Cymru and is specifically set in a Welsh context.
- How should we evaluate housing outcomes? (March 2019)
- How can innovation contribute to addressing the UK housing crisis? (due May/June 2019)

2018:

- Design Value: what does it mean and how do we measure it? (November 2018)
- Monitoring changes in the UK private rented sector.(November 2018)
- International evidence review: economic impacts and incidence of housing taxation (September 2018)
- International evidence review: policies to improve housing affordability at all spatial scales (September 2018)
- Evidencing the impact of welfare reform on housing associations (August 2018)
- The “frustrated” housing aspirations of generation rent (August 2018)

In addition, during 2018 CaCHE published a series of Working Papers on Social Housing in the UK. This included papers on design, governance, financing new social and affordable housing and separate papers on social housing in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (all of which are available via the CaCHE website).

Current Projects

- An evaluation and illustrative pilot of the Scottish Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA) tool
- Are housing issues wicked issues?
- Beyond Generation Rent: understanding the aspirations of older private renters
- Delivering design value
- Drivers of performance in social housing
- Enabling community-led housing through local government (*starting August 2019*)
- Good practice review in international and UK lesson sharing/learning and policy transfer
- Homelessness prevention in the UK
- Housing wealth inequalities in Scotland
- International evidence review: high-rise housing as sustainable urban intensification
- Resident voice in housing governance
- The micro-economics of private housing development and land markets

- Understanding approaches to tenant participation: a scoping study
- Understanding reconfigured aspirations, expectations and choice
- The potential for developing a new individual-level homeless data collection system for Wales (This is a one year project, jointly funded by Welsh Government, and due to report in June/July 2019).

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 Knowledge Exchange Hub is helping to shape some of the newly emerging UK level research projects and evidence reviews, which are being developed to take forward the ten strategic priority areas identified through the prioritisation events held last year (see above). In December 2018 Wales Hub members had the opportunity to consider five newly emerging research projects (in relation to older renters in the private rented sector, on approaches to tenant participation, in respect of delivering design value, a project exploring forms and mechanisms of exclusion in the contemporary housing system and a proposed evidence review of rent control/regulation) and their relevance to Wales. Feedback from Wales Hub members has been provided to project co-investigators, in terms of views of individual projects and their relevance to Wales. There will be further opportunities later this year for CaCHE Wales Hub members to critique and shape some of the other new research projects (see current projects above), as well as to express their views as to how housing policy and practice could input to specific projects, in their design, implementation and dissemination.

In early 2019 CaCHE agreed small-scale support through its Knowledge Exchange Fund to assist a number of projects being undertaken outside of CaCHE. Five projects have been funded, as set out below:

- Older private tenants and security;
- Housing and hate crime: Building responses from evidence;
- Housing with Pride: A knowledge exchange project to actively promote LGBTQ+ inclusivity and affirmative action in the social housing sector;
- Tenant participation in the private rented sector;
- How housing can deliver a healthier Wales.

The last of these is being led by Tyfu Tai Cymru, part of CIH Cymru. Further information is available about each of these projects on the CaCHE website.

Although it's still relatively early days, 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.

A short article in the April 2019 issue of **Welsh Housing Quarterly** provides an update of the work of CaCHE in a Wales context. At the UK level CaCHE is also working in partnership with the Housing Studies Association (HSA) and the Housing Quality Network (HQN) to produce a quarterly research newsletter, **Evidence**. This is published as a supplement to HQN's magazine, **The Governor**, and is available to download from the HQN website.

<https://hqnetwork.co.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93ijim4n12782.pdf&ver=28017>

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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