



Welsh Government

Housing Information Group Meeting

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UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)

Briefing Paper: September 2023

Bob Smith

Cardiff University

Introduction

The UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) is a consortium of eight institutions led by the University of Glasgow (and includes Cardiff University), which was established in August 2017. The Centre, which is now funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), is a multidisciplinary partnership between academia and housing policy and practice. Its primary objective is to produce evidence and new research that contributes to tackling the UK's housing problems at national, devolved, regional and local levels.

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, the 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 have been presented at Housing Information Group meetings since May 2019 and published subsequently on the Welsh Government website.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of activities since June 2023 and to highlight published CaCHE reports and papers (including forthcoming work) which we consider of relevance to Wales. All CaCHE reports are available to download from the CaCHE website.

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

Recently Published CaCHE Research

Since we last reported to the Housing Information Group in June this year CaCHE has continued to progress with its programme of work. The following reports and papers have been published during the period June – September 2023, although it's been a relatively quiet period for new research outputs. A couple of these publications relate to research undertaken under phase one of CaCHE (August 2017-October 2022).

Niddrie Road, Glasgow: Tenement Retrofit Evaluation

Glenn Corrigan et.al.

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/niddrie-road-glasgow-tenement-retrofit-evaluation/>

Supported by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), this research (undertaken in partnership with the University of Strathclyde and others) provides a detailed evaluation of the retrofit of a traditional Victorian Glasgow property containing 8 small flats.

The Contested Policy of Residential Space

Gareth James, Alice Earley and Mark Stephens

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/the-contested-politics-of-residential-space/>

This research examines attitudes towards residential space in the UK and compares them with the values underpinning a number of housing/social welfare policies (single occupant council tax discount, LHA shared accommodation rate and spare room subsidy/" bedroom tax")

Policy Brief: Creating Housing with Care Environments for Older People

Paul Willis

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/policy-brief-creating-inclusive-housing-with-care-environments-for-older-people/>

This briefing is designed to provide evidence to assist housing providers and practitioners to deliver high quality, age-friendly housing with care and support. It draws upon a research study conducted at Bristol University exploring the social inclusion of those living in care and support schemes in England and Wales.

Shaping Futures: Changing the Housing Story (2017)

Ken Gibb and others

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/shaping-futures-2017/>

This report (originally published in 2017) draws together contributors from the UK, Canada and Australia to examine a number of common international housing challenges, focusing on the potential for comparative learning. It calls for effective policies to counter and redirect housing processes and outcomes.

In addition, CaCHE continues to publish regular blogs and news items on its website. Over the summer of 2023 CaCHE published a series of blogs highlighting housing research, good practice, knowledge gaps and people's experiences in order to celebrate work going on across the UK (and beyond) to champion the rights of LGBTQ+ people. This series was launched in June to coincide with Pride month, but also reflects the Centre's ongoing work around issues of equality, diversity and inclusion. The link to CaCHE blogs is here:

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

Ongoing CaCHE Research

A small number of research projects under CaCHE's phase one research programme are drawing to an end with final outputs expected later this year. We have listed these below under the original (phase one) CaCHE research themes.

- **Choice**

Social housing allocations (in collaboration with Crisis).

- **Economy**

The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC): Planning policy and cross-border housing markets on the island of Ireland.

- **Governance**

Social housing organisations: strategy and foresight.

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

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

The Phase Two CaCHE Research Programme

In its first five years CaCHE undertook more than 60 research projects.

The level of resources for the Phase two (November 2022-October 2026) will be significantly less than in the period 2017-2022 and there will be increased reliance on university institutional support and external income generation. However, there remains a commitment from the current institutions and agreement to retaining the five Knowledge Exchange Hubs across the UK (see opening section of this paper). CaCHE will continue to provide relevant housing research to fill key gaps in existing knowledge and to try and embed evidence in housing policy and practice across the UK.

The intention is to focus research over the next period on the following broad main themes:

- Housing and the Economy
- Housing Inequalities
- Housing and Place (including design and land use planning)
- Housing and the Environment (including retrofitting homes and tackling climate change)

There will also be three cross-cutting strands to CaCHE's work.

- Housing Systems
- Housing Data
- International Housing Research linkages

CaCHE is currently in the early stages of developing a new research project which will draw upon aspects of systems thinking methods, philosophy, and practice. We are about to consult with our five Knowledge Exchange Hubs to try and develop this new UK-wide, large scale research project. Drawing upon the expertise of members of the CaCHE Knowledge Exchange Hubs we will seek to identify the priority housing research issues in each of the UK nations and regions, building upon the initial work the Hubs did in 2018. This process will then be used to develop a single well-defined new project, underpinned by key researchable questions, which will start early in 2024.

Work will continue to develop projects under the other CaCHE themes identified above. In addition, CaCHE will also respond to appropriate research opportunities where these fit within the Centre's thematic priorities. Amongst the projects currently underway are further work on the private rented sector. This includes a small piece of work on the evidence of the impacts of regulatory change on the supply and price of private rented housing and work for CIH Scotland on affordability in the sector, focusing on understanding the interplay between rental affordability and the level of the Local Housing Allowance in Scotland. In addition, CaCHE is working with a range of organisations on a national evaluation of Home Improvement Services in England, funded by the Centre for Ageing Better. There is further information about this project on our website:

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/home-improvement-services-in-england-national-evaluation/>

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. The link to the data navigator is here:

<https://cache-web-live.cf.ac.uk/>

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>

For further information about the work of CaCHE in Wales contact:

Bob Smith

Cardiff University

SmithR2@cardiff.ac.uk