



Welsh Government

Housing Information Group Meeting

Tuesday 21st May 2024

UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)

Briefing Paper: May 2024

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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 (which has recently been revamped). The link is below:.

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

Recently Published CaCHE Research

Since we last reported to the Housing Information Group in September last year CaCHE has continued to progress with its programme of work. The following reports and papers have been published during the period September 2023 – May 2024, 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) and research outside of CaCHE.

Why have the volume housebuilders been so profitable?

Chris Foye and Edward Shepherd

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/why-have-the-volume-housebuilders-been-so-profitable/>

The impact of regulatory reform on the private rented sector.

Nicholas Harrington, Ken Gibb, Alex Marsh and Bob Smith

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/the-impact-of-regulatory-reform-on-the-private-rented-sector/>

Heat Pumps and Domestic Heat Carbonisation in the UK: A Systems thinking Analysis of Barriers to Adoption.

Nicholas Harrington

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/heat-pumps-and-domestic-heat-decarbonisation-in-the-uk-a-systems-thinking-analysis-of-barriers-to-adoption/>

Housing for Older People in Scotland: A call for action.

Ashley Campbell et al

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/housing-for-older-people-in-scotland-a-call-for-discussion/>

Student Homelessness in Glasgow 2022

Ken Gibb, Victoria Lawson and Katy Dickson

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/student-homelessness-in-glasgow-2022/>

The heat is on - the growing problem of overheating in domestic homes in England and the need for a national strategy.

Noelene Marisa Yesudas

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/the-heat-is-on-the-growing-problem-of-overheating-in-domestic-homes-in-england-and-the-need-for-a-national-strategy/>

The running cost of domestic heat pumps in the UK.

Nicholas Harrington

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/the-running-cost-of-heat-pumps/>

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

Neale Blair, Dahithi Downey, Joe Frey, Declan Redmond and Clare Williamson

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/dublin-belfast-economic-corridor/>

Cross Party Housing Group (Scotland) – report on rent control.

Ken Gibb, Gareth James and Ken Smith

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/cross-party-group-on-housing-report-on-rent-control/>

Homes for all: a vision for England's housing system.

Ken Gibb, Alex Marsh, David Orr and Alice Earley

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/publications/homes-for-all-a-vision-for-englands-housing-system/>

In addition, CaCHE continues to publish regular blogs and news items on its website. Since the beginning of 2024 blogs by CaCHE staff and invited contributors have included:

- The two-tier system of housing safety standards.
- Manifesto for Housing 2024.
- Systems thinking approaches to housing research.
- Housing systems, systems thinking.
- Housing improvement services – national challenges and local experiences.
- LGBTQ+ people and housing: claiming our past, celebrating our present and creating our future.
- Stories from the archives: how oral histories can shed light on LGBTQIA people's experiences of home and housing (two parts).
- Housing Studies Association Conference 2024 – reflections.
- The local drivers of housing discrimination.

These can all be accessed from the **news and views** pages of the CaCHE website.

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/whats-happening/news/>

The Centre has also published a series of podcasts under the theme of equality in housing.

<https://housingevidence.ac.uk/whats-happening/podcasts/>

Ongoing CaCHE Research

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 co-investigators are involved in a number of research council bids where we are awaiting the outcomes.

We are currently involved in an EU funded Horizon project (**EqualHouse**), led by University College Dublin. Housing inequality is a pervasive challenge across Europe, with different dimensions (Unaffordability, homelessness, labour market disparities etc.). The project, which will involve policy makers from the outset, aims to offer policy makers and practitioners robust guidance for sustainable, inclusive and affordable solutions.

CaCHE colleagues in Sheffield are undertaking research for the Centre for Ageing Better, evaluating the impact of home improvement services in England.

We have completed preliminary work with our five knowledge exchange hubs and our International Advisory Board to identify an internally funded UK-wide project anchored in systems thinking, reflecting "wicked" priorities in housing identified across the UK. We will share further details of this project shortly.

Work will continue to develop projects under the different CaCHE themes identified above. In addition, CaCHE will also respond to appropriate research opportunities where these fit within the Centre's thematic priorities.

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.

Contacts for Further Information

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

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

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

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

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

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