



Welsh Government

Housing Information Group Meeting

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UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence

Briefing Paper: June 2021

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Introduction

The UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) is a consortium of 14 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 (2017-2022) it will produce evidence and new research which will aim to improve housing policy and practice across the UK

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, 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 was presented at the May and September 2019 and September 2020 meetings. The first of these is available on the [Welsh Government website](#).

This paper outlined the objectives of CaCHE, the structure of the Centre's research (which is organised around seven themes, with CaCHE having 10 priority areas within these themes for its ongoing work). It also detailed projects completed in 2018 and the early part of 2019 and set out information about new research projects commencing in 2019.

This information is not repeated here. However, detailed information about completed projects, published reports, and ongoing and proposed research studies are all set out on the CaCHE website, the link to which is provided in the final section of this paper (Contacts for Further Information).

The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of activities since September 2020 and to highlight published CaCHE reports and papers (including forthcoming work) which we consider of relevance to Wales.

Housing Policy and COVID-19

Whilst CaCHE has worked with housing policy makers and practitioners to identify its key research priorities it has also retained a capacity to respond to changing circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives, the economy and wider society. The impact on households and housing has been enormous and last year CaCHE announced a major new research project which focuses on housing policies and COVID-19 in order to better understand the challenges, how policies and interventions are changing across the UK and what all this means for a post COVID set of housing policies. The research is organised under 5 themes:

- **Homelessness**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **The economy, housing markets, incomes and housing costs**
- **Rented sector, evictions and activism**
- **Resilience and the housing system**

Across these five themes CaCHE researchers are examining policy change over a period of around 18 months (from Summer 2020 to late 2021) tracking policy developments, conducting repeat interviews with key informants and drawing on wider evidence. Below is a link to a summary of the project by Professor Ken Gibb, the Centre's Director, introducing the research. [Housing policies and the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

CaCHE published several interim reports in late 2020/early 2021. These are set out below.

[Renting During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Great Britain: The Experiences of Private Tenants](#)

[Resilience in the Housing System](#)

[Domestic Abuse and Housing Connections and Disconnections in the Pre-COVID-19 Policy World](#)

[The COVID-19 Crisis Response to Homelessness in Great Britain](#)

[Impact of Housing Design and Placemaking on Social Value and Well-being in the Pandemic: interim report](#)

Members of the Wales Knowledge Exchange Hub discussed the overall project in a virtual meeting at the end of July 2020 and a paper based on the discussions was published in October last year. [Housing policies and the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

It is expected that the Centre will publish a series of final reports in relation to the COVID-19 and Housing Policy project late in 2021.

Other Recently Published CaCHE Research

In addition to its new work in relation to the COVID-19 crisis CaCHE has continued to progress with its wider programme of work. The following reports and papers have been published between September 2020 and June 2021.

[Housing Policy and Poor-Quality Homes](#)

This research was commissioned by **Ageing Better**, and is primarily an English study, but we consider many of its findings and recommendations are relevant to Wales.

[High Rise Residential Development: an international evidence review](#)

[Innovation in Housing Advice in the UK Private Rented Sector](#)

[How Taxation Varies between Owner Occupation, Private Renting, and other Housing Tenures in European Countries](#)

[A Statistical Revaluation of Council Tax Subjects in Wales](#)

[Improving Opportunities: How to Support Social Housing Tenants into Sustainable Employment: Report to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Social Mobility](#)

[Delivering Design Value: The Housing Design Quality Conundrum](#)

[Housing with Pride](#)

[Thinking Outside the Box: Exploring Innovation in Affordable Home Ownership](#)

[Forgotten Mothers: The case for a policy focus on the Experiences of Motherhood and Homelessness](#)

[Delivering More Homes and Better Places: Lessons from policy and practice in Scotland](#)

[The Microeconomics of Private Housing Development and Land Markets](#)

CaCHE has also recently published (June 2021) a discussion paper commissioned by the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers and authored by Gillian Young (Newhaven Research Scotland) on the [Right to Adequate Housing: Are We Focusing on What Matters?](#) Whilst the focus of this paper is Scotland, given earlier work in Wales by CIH Cymru, Shelter Cymru and Tai Pawb (and underpinned by the research undertaken by Simon Hoffman) we believe the findings from this research are relevant to Wales.

The Statistical Revaluation of Council Tax Subjects in Wales study was part funded by Welsh Government and authored by researchers at Sheffield University/University of Adelaide. Several of the other reports have drawn upon material from Wales. We hope that many of the publications offer valuable learning for policy and practice in Wales.

Evidence for the Devolved Governments in Wales and Scotland, 2021-2026

Just before the May 2021 elections in Wales and Scotland CaCHE produced separate reports highlighting CaCHE evidence with a view to promoting the use of good quality evidence in developing housing policy and practice. Both papers set out a number of priorities based on the synthesis of available evidence and made the case for housing to be seen as a system which focuses on the relationships between the different elements of the system, and which can provide a valuable tool of analysis to facilitate policy change.

[Housing in Wales: Evidence for Government 2021-2026](#)

[Housing in Scotland: Evidence for Government 2021-26](#)

CaCHE held an online webinar on 26th May 2021 on policy ideas for the Scottish and Welsh Governments (with a panel of policy makers/practitioners). The event (and brief video summaries of each paper) can be viewed on the CaCHE YouTube channel ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)).

Other Ongoing CaCHE Research

As well as the Housing Policies and COVID-19 research several other projects are underway. We have listed these below under the different CaCHE research themes.

Choice

Living in a small home

Economy

The potential role of modular construction in addressing systemic supply issues

Governance

Are housing issues wicked issues?

Drivers of performance in social housing

Enabling community-led housing through local government

Understanding approaches to private tenant participation: A scoping study (Northern Ireland)

Rent control: evidence review

- A brief article about this research was published in the January 2021 issue of **Welsh Housing Quarterly**.

Wider Drivers

The contested politics of residential space

Health and well-being in the private rented sector

Decarbonisation of the UK housing stock

Cross-cutting

Lived experience of suburbanised poverty: an international evidence review

Retrofit of pre-1919 Glasgow tenement housing: demonstration project

There is further information about individual projects on the [CaCHE website](#).

New Research Projects 2021-2022.

CaCHE is currently looking at a new phase of research projects to be undertaken in 2021-22. Although we are unable to provide detailed information at this stage studies are likely to include:

- Further research on design value (including post occupancy survey work)
- A study of social housing allocations policies (in collaboration with Crisis)
- The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and cross-border housing markets
- Ethnic inequalities in housing policy and practice
- Leaseholders and the UK cladding scandal

Further details of these projects will be available in due course.

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:

There is also a [recent briefing paper published by CaCHE](#) examining key data sets to help our understanding of the private rented sector in the UK and how it is changing. The link is here:

Contacts for Further Information

Details of many of the research projects (including reports, working papers, policy briefings and blogs) can be found at [UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence](#)

Individuals can also [sign up for regular email alerts and newsletters](#) from the Centre.

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

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