



## E-briefing

January 2015

Welcome to the Wales Housing Research Network Quarterly e-briefing, containing summaries and information on recent and planned research relating to housing in Wales.

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## Welsh Government Publications

For information on Welsh Government housing research please contact Lucie Griffiths: [lucie.griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lucie.griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

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### Statistics releases

- New House Building - April to June 2014 (Headline only)
- Homelessness - April to June 2014 (Headline only)
- Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2013-14
- Private Sector Rents for Wales 2013
- Affordable Housing Provision in Wales 2013-14
- Mortgage and Landlord Possession Actions - July to September 2014
- New House Building - July to September 2014 (Headline only)
- Homelessness - July to September 2014 (Release and headline)

All releases are available from [www.wales.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics)

For further information on Housing Statistics, please contact [Rhiannon Caunt](#)

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### Post Aylward Review of the effectiveness of the Supporting People Programme structures

Following the Aylward Review of the Supporting People Programme, a number of changes were made to the supporting governance structures in 2012, such as the introduction of the Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB) and Regional Collaborative Committees (RCCs). These, and other structures, provide guidance and ultimately direction, to the Supporting People Programme, both on a national and regional level. The Welsh Government commissioned a review of these national and regional structures to identify best practice and make recommendations for future arrangements. The final report of the Post Aylward Review of the effectiveness of the Supporting People Programme structures was published on 30 September 2014.

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### Houses into Homes Evaluation

The 'Houses into Homes' scheme, which offers loans to bring privately owned empty houses or commercial buildings back into use as homes for rent or sale, was launched in April 2012. The evaluation of the scheme is being conducted by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University, and spans entire three year initiative. The Third Interim Report was published on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014. It provides an in-depth analysis of the scheme over its first two years.

## Monitoring information report from Local Authority involvement in helping to mitigate Housing Benefit reform

In order to mitigate the anticipated impact of the Housing Benefit changes upon tenants, the Welsh Government made £2.15 million available for the period April 2011 to March 2014. This was for authorities to use in a programme of approved work with landlords and tenants with the intention of sustaining tenancies. A monitoring system was put in place whereby a small number of standardised quantitative data items and qualitative information were collected by the Welsh Government from all local authorities. Data has already been collected and published for periods 1 to 4 (Oct 2011-Mar 2012/ Apr 2012-Sep 2012/ Oct 2012-Mar 2013/ Apr 2013-Sep 2013). This final report covers the fifth and final period - Oct 2013-March 2014 - as well as providing an overview of all five periods. The final report, which uses information from Local authority projects aimed at mitigating the impact of Housing Benefit reform, was published in October 2014.

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## Review of Independent Living Adaptations

A research consortium of Shelter, Tai Pawb and Cardiff Metropolitan University, has been commissioned to undertake the **Review of Independent Living Adaptations**. This study will explore and test potential changes to the structural and delivery mechanisms for independent living adaptations. This is to move towards the Welsh Government goal of ensuring that adaptations can be delivered more speedily to those who need them and to help to reduce inherent inequalities in the current system by ensuring joined-up solutions, prevention, and early intervention activity. The final report of the Review is expected to be published in December 2014.

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## Evaluation of Rent First use and barriers to take up of scheme

A consortium of Three Dragons, SQW and ORS have been commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the **Rent First – Intermediate Rent** product. Rent First is a Welsh Government subsidised intermediate rent solution providing people with a mid-market rental housing solution as well as potentially assisting them in the outright purchase of their home in the future by allowing a 'rent first' option. The evaluation seeks to assess to what extent Rent First is used across Wales, and to understand any barriers to access. As part of this, the project will also explore the use of other intermediate rent products (both grant and non-grant) or strategies by social housing providers. The final report is expected to be published in Spring 2015.

## Llamau Publications

For information on Llamau's research please visit: [www.llamau.org.uk/research](http://www.llamau.org.uk/research)

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### **A study into the Experiences of Young Homeless People**

In 2011, Llamau formed a Knowledge Transfer Partnership collaboration with Cardiff University's School of Psychology and Cardiff University's Neuroscience & Mental Health Research Institute. **SEYHoPe: A study of the experiences of young homeless people** was the first research project conducted under the partnership and was part-funded by the Technology Strategy Board, Economic & Social Research Council and the Welsh Government.

Dr Katherine Shelton, who led the research team, is a senior lecturer in the School of Psychology at Cardiff University. Together with her colleagues, Dr Kate Hodgson and Professor Marianne van den Bree, Katherine has undertaken a three year longitudinal study of over ninety service users with experiences of homelessness from the charity Llamau. The study examines the relative role and interaction between mental health, social and structural factors that are linked to how service users fare in the short and long term. The findings have been important for reviewing and refining existing service provision for young people affected by homelessness as well as identifying opportunities for well-defined targeted intervention. As a result of the project, a screening tool was developed to identify mental health problems in service users, enabling Llamau to better target support. Further outcomes included adjusting staff training to be more specific around mental health and the creation of a series of workshops for young service users to help them better manage their own mental health.

In 2014, the Technology Strategy Board (the UK's innovation agency) rated the collaboration between the university and Llamau as 'outstanding', a rating which was only awarded to a small percentage of KTP projects nationally.

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### **Mental Health and Planning Behaviour in Young People**

Current work is focused on understanding links between mental health and planning behaviour among Llamau service users and is being led by Charlotte Fry, a doctoral student in the School of Psychology. Three research papers have been written that stem directly from this partnership:

- Hodgson, K. J., Shelton, K. H., Van Den Bree, M. B., & Los, F. J. (2013). Psychopathology in Young People Experiencing Homelessness: A Systematic Review, *American Journal of Public Health* 103(6) e24-e37. [10.2105/AJPH.2013.301318](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2013.301318)
- Hodgson, K. J., Shelton, K. H. & Van Den Bree, M. B, (2014) Mental health problems in young people with experiences of homelessness and the relationship with health service use: a follow-up study, *Evidence Based Mental Health*. [10.1136/ebmental-2014-101810](https://doi.org/10.1136/ebmental-2014-101810)
- Hodgson, K. J., Shelton, K. H. & Van Den Bree, M. B, (2014; in press). Psychopathology among young homeless people: longitudinal mental health outcomes for different subgroups. *British Journal of Clinical Psychology*.

In addition to research on the experiences and profile of psychological health among young people affected by homelessness, Katherine is engaged in a study on the early support needs of families who have adopted children. More information about her work can be found here:

[www.psych.cf.ac.uk/contactsandpeople/academics/shelton](http://www.psych.cf.ac.uk/contactsandpeople/academics/shelton)

## Shelter Cymru Research

For information on this study please contact Adam Golten, Policy and Research Officer, [adamg@sheltecymru.org.uk](mailto:adamg@sheltecymru.org.uk)

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### **Homeless Prevention Amongst Vulnerable Groups**

Shelter Cymru have recently won a four year funding bid to create a role specifically to undertake research into homelessness prevention amongst vulnerable groups. The project lead will undertake three research projects annually with the aim of trying to help prevent homelessness in Wales. Specific actions include building a knowledge base on why specific vulnerable groups experience homelessness, identifying evidence-based solutions, and lobbying for changes in policy and practice.

The project will allow trends identified in Shelter Cymru casework to be investigated in depth, leading to the development of recommendations for central and local government. The project's ultimate aim is to influence the way services are delivered at national and local level, primarily within Wales, but also in England and Scotland.

The first year's work plan has been set and will look into existing good practice in the UK and further afield in preventing homelessness amongst ex-offenders, especially in light of the removal of their priority need from next April. The project will also look into the standards of temporary accommodation in Wales due to the high number of 'dropouts' before a duty has been discharged by the local authority. Finally, to influence policy and practice to assist people with autism to avoid homelessness.

### Single homelessness experiences

In collaboration with WISERD and ORS, Dr. Peter Mackie of Cardiff University has undertaken research into single homeless experiences across Great Britain on behalf of CRISIS. The research is underpinned by questionnaires with 480 homeless people, 30 in-depth interviews and considerable administrative data analysis. The report is due to be published Christmas 2014.

For more information please contact Dr. Peter Mackie, [mackiep@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:mackiep@cardiff.ac.uk)

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### Sustainable design and construction

Wayne Forster is the Deputy Head of the Welsh School of Architecture. His research focuses on sustainable housing. Outputs in this category are designs and through the design and construction of a string of high quality award winning public buildings – including the ground-breaking integrated care facility Cwm Aur in Llanybydder and the recently completed Respite facility on the sea front at Aberafan. Themes related to place and distinctiveness are allied to tradition and innovation. Simple forms, craft and systems and drawing processes have emerged from this work. These have been central to the research activities of the Design Research Unit of the Welsh School of Architecture (DRUw) and have formed the substantive part of outputs and returns for REF. In 2009, they were awarded the Cardiff University Innovation prize, and the Chartered Institute of Building Prize for Research, for the development of the sustainable and affordable Housing System known as Ty Unnos which involves re-engineered locally grown softwood. This was also recognised by RIBA in 2013, with a Commendation for Research carried out in the university sector. There is an ongoing portfolio of work including a sustainable self-build rural dwelling and a mixed tenure housing scheme alongside the River Tawe in Swansea.

For more information contact Wayne Forster on: [FosterW@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:FosterW@cardiff.ac.uk)

### Health and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard

Carmarthenshire County Council **is carrying out large scale renovation works on its social housing stock to bring the properties up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard**. The Housing Regeneration and Health Study team, based at Swansea and Cardiff Universities, are comparing the health service utilisation rates of residents living in the renewal homes before and after the renovation work. We will use routinely collected health data to assess the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of the housing intervention as a public health prevention strategy.

This study is funded by the NIHR Public Health Research Programme and further details may be obtained from: <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/projects/phr/09300602> or by contacting Dr Sarah Rodgers: [s.e.rodgers@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.rodgers@swansea.ac.uk)



## Dates for your diary

### Housing Information Group - January 21<sup>st</sup> 2015

The group meet quarterly and act as a forum for the Welsh Government, local authorities, housing associations, and participating agencies to share views about housing. These views cover statistical, research and other analytical requirements of Welsh housing policy and practice.

The next meeting of the Housing Information Group will be held on the **21 January 2015** at the Welsh Government Offices in Cathays Park, Cardiff.

Further information, including agendas, minutes and papers of previous meetings or to register interest in upcoming meetings, please refer to the website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/housing-information-group/?lang=en>

## Get in touch

We welcome all contributions to future publications of the Welsh Housing Research e-brief. If you, or your organisation, have any information on research, housing statistics or planned publications, please contact Tina Woods on [WoodsT1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:WoodsT1@cardiff.ac.uk).

**For more information about the Wales Housing Research Network visit:**

[www.wiserd.ac.uk/housing-network](http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/housing-network)

If you wish to be added or removed from the network distribution list please contact Tina Woods at the above email address.