

Together
we will end
homelessness



UK COLLABORATIVE
CENTRE FOR
HOUSING EVIDENCE

Social Housing Allocations Research

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Social housing allocations

- A key pressure point in the social housing system
- An arena in which policy and practice tries to reconcile a range of competing priorities
- Questioning of underlying principles
- A range of new practices
 - Or practices being used differently
- Affected by a broad range of policy changes in other areas
- We don't know a lot about how all this meshes together nor what the outcomes are

Our overall project objective is...

... to understand how local systems of housing allocation are currently operating, at both strategic and operational level, from the perspective of different stakeholders.




Questions we're seeking to investigate

...

- what are the challenges that local allocation systems are facing at present?
- what are the enablers and barriers to effective joint working?
- what is the role of discretion in the allocation of social housing?
- how are applicants' housing expectations managed?
- how are affordability checks being used?
- what impact has the pandemic period had on allocations systems and priorities?
- how are policy changes in other policy areas and other broader contextual changes affecting the allocations system?

Research Method

- Literature review
 - Academic and policy literature
 - Re-analysis of data from the annual Homelessness Monitor
 - Online survey of housing associations
 - Slightly different versions for England, Wales and Scotland
 - Working with NHF in England, CH Cymru in Wales, ...
 - Distributed via email
 - Eight case studies of local areas
 - Four England, Two Wales, Two Scotland
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Where are
we now?

Literature review

Reanalysis of Homelessness
Monitor data

Survey

Case studies



Timeline from here


- Fieldwork to be completed over the next couple of months
- Reports ready by the end of the summer



Questions

- **(How) do the local authorities you work with involve the housing associations operating in their area in strategic discussions about the allocations scheme and LA housing register?**
- **Has the management of the housing register and/or of individual lettings changed over the recent past? If so, how?**
For example, in terms of the use of exclusions from the register or the application of qualifying criteria to individual households/lettings (eg how financial capability checks are being used)
- **What do you perceive to be the most important aspects of an effective working relationship between LAs and HAs?**

Questions (Continued)

- **How, if at all, has your approach to allocations been affected by any recent changes in housing, homelessness, or broader policy?**
 - **Thinking about the recent COVID pandemic, has it led to any permanent changes to the local authority's and/or your own allocations practice and policies?**
 - **What are the biggest current/future challenges facing your allocations system? Are there any plans to change in light of these challenges?**
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If you have any questions or queries:

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- Thanks in advance for your help