



UK COLLABORATIVE
CENTRE FOR
HOUSING EVIDENCE

Homes and Health Webinar Series

Academic research into practice

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This presentation

- Introduce the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)
- To reflect on engagement between academia and policy/practice – and why it's important
- To talk about our newly-launched equality, diversity and inclusion initiative
- Encourage and develop new relationships across the region



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Who we are

- We're a consortium of 13 institutions, including two non-academic institutions
- We are based throughout the UK, led from the University of Glasgow
- The centre was established in late 2017 and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, Arts and Humanities Research Council and Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- We have five regional Hubs across the UK – my role is to run the **North of England and Midlands Hub**



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Building relationships regionally

- A key part of the Knowledge Exchange team's role is to build **mutually-beneficial relationships** and networks across the housing system
- Our five Knowledge Exchange Hubs serve as a way of **understanding regional differences** in housing





Barriers to engagement (1)

- **Navigating academia**
 - Where do you start?
 - Even within the University of Sheffield there are academics working on housing-related projects across different departments and faculties
- **Paywalls**
 - Many academic journals require subscriptions – this can prevent easy access for non-academic institutions



Barriers to engagement (2)

- **Language**

- In all our daily work we use language/acronyms that can act as barriers to engaging/understanding what we're each talking about

- **Timings**

- Research projects can take years from inception to completion
- Capacity and resource issues are challenging (e.g. teaching commitments, multiple projects)
- Ongoing engagement can help to manage expectations on both sides

- **Others?**

- Have you experienced other challenges? We are always wanting to learn how we can engage better!



Opportunities to engage

- However, there's lots to be optimistic about!
- Informal conversations can start the ball rolling
 - We want to hear about the work that's taking place
 - We encourage people to come and speak to us about the work they're doing to explore possible crossovers and connections.
 - Help navigate academia and build new networks
 - Identify existing work and help us all work more efficiently
- Co-badging activities
- Blogs
- Policy and practice briefs



Equality, diversity and inclusion in housing

- Recognising our lack of focus/consistency on EDI issues regarding housing research in the UK, we launched our new initiative late 2021.
- We don't have all the answers, so we wanted to open up our platform to the widest possible audience
- A focus on 'storytelling' to highlight the complex challenges in housing, from many difference perspectives. A way of highlighting to intersectionality of such challenges and the importance for coalitions of people to help develop robust research and find appropriate solutions



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Equality, diversity and inclusion in housing

BLOG

‘BLACK STUFF’ – AN INTIMATE AND REFLECTIVE ACCOUNT OF NOTIONS OF HOME AND HOUSING

As part of our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative](#), we are inviting people to share their experiences of housing and home. Our latest contribution is in the form of a poem. It provides an intimate and reflective account of the author’s experiences and notions of home and housing.

About Kevin

My name is Kevin. I’m from Tottenham, North London. I was born and raised in one of the most deprived areas in the country. High rates of unemployment, crime, and street violence.

I was fortunate enough to be born into a loving, stable two-parent household. At the age of 12 my world changed (as it does for most children) I left the safety and familiarity of childhood and entered the turbulent world of adulthood.



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Equality, diversity and inclusion in housing



NO MORE TINKERING – GRAHAM FINDLAY CALLS FOR ACCESSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE HOMES FOR THE FUTURE

Author(s): Graham Findlay

Date: 25th January 2022



WHAT WE LEARNT FROM 2021: THE RIGHTS AND MOSTLY WRONGS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPORT ON RACE

Author(s): Mushtaq Khan

Date: 19th January 2022



DIVERSITY FLUENCY – WE CAN DO BETTER

Author(s): Lucy Malarkey

Date: 15th December 2021



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Please get in touch!

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