

Introduction

Over the next 10 years the UK housing market is likely to be characterised by uncertainty and change, creating considerable challenges for policy makers and practitioners. Any changes in the housing market are likely to have a particular impact on the housing options available to young people. Consequently, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation is funding Cardiff University, in collaboration with UK-wide partners, to undertake research that will provide new perspectives on the housing challenges facing young people in the period 2010-2020. The research will deliver essential direction for policy makers and practitioners in the UK. More specifically the research will:

- Explore the likely profiles of the housing system in 2020
- Identify the spatial dimensions of the 2020 UK housing system
- Ascertain young people's housing aspirations and how they fit with the current housing system and the system likely to exist in 2020
- Assess the extent to which accepted typologies of young people's housing pathways will be relevant in 2020
- Identify the 'new' winners and losers in the 2020 housing system
- Determine how housing policy and practice will need to change in response to patterns of housing need in 2020

Research design and methods

A key strength of the research is its use of mixed methods at all stages. The research also places considerable value on the participation of policy makers, practitioners and young people. The research consists of three stages. First, it will identify the key factors that are likely to affect young people's housing choices. This will be achieved by analysing existing evidence in conjunction with new primary data (policy maker, practitioner and young people interviews).

The second stage will involve consultation with experts in order to develop four 2020 scenarios. The findings will shape parameters that will be applied to UK and regional data sets in order to model the 2020 scenarios for the typical routes that young people take through the housing system.

The third stage will determine policy and practice responses to the 2020 scenarios. This stage of the research will predominantly rely on engagement with policy makers, practitioners and young people through a series of UK workshops.

The research team

Professor David Clapham is Professor of Housing at Cardiff University and will lead on the project with colleagues Dr. Peter Mackie (Cardiff University) and Dr. Scott Orford (Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods). Other members of the research team include; Professor David Robinson (Sheffield Hallam University), Dr. Iain Atherton (Stirling University) and Louise Brown (Ulster University). In addition Shelter Cymru will play a key role in the research, offering support to five young researchers who will be responsible for engaging other young people in the study.

Influencing policy or practice

The research is likely to significantly inform UK housing policy over the next decade and will seek to involve policy makers, practitioners and young people from the outset.