

Research specification



Chartered
Institute of
Housing
Cymru



Title: The role of housing advice during the hospital discharge planning process

Date: November 9th 2020

Deadline: December 4th 5pm

Research specification

The role of housing advice during the hospital discharge planning process

This is an invitation to tender for research focusing on the role of housing advice during the hospital discharge planning process. The research has a maximum budget of £15k and a full report is to be delivered within 16 weeks of the contract being awarded. The research will involve:

- Undertaking primary research with individuals and teams who commission, manage and work on hospital discharge planning in Wales to gain a contemporary insight of the role housing advice plays within the process
- Provide a narrative of the way housing advice is used, and how this advice is sourced and developed amongst health, social care and third sector staff interacting with patients and families
- Build an understanding around any variance in the extent to which housing advice forms a regular part of the hospital discharge planning process
- Highlight areas of good practice currently within this area in Wales

All applications to undertake this research should be sent to matthew.kennedy@cih.org by December 4th at 5pm.

Introduction

Tyfu Tai Cymru (TTC) is a 5-year housing policy project currently nearing the end of its third year, with a focus on providing insightful analysis and filling evidence gaps to support policy progression. To see the kind of research we have done to date, please see our [website](#).

Funded by the Oak Foundation the project is managed by the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru. TTC works across three key strands:

- Building the right homes to meet demand
- Making sure housing is always a priority for local government
- Demonstrating housing's role in keeping people well and healthy

Building the right homes to meet demand is vital given the current housing need in Wales, the increase in the ageing population and the need to prepare the right homes for future generations. We welcome the Welsh Government's 20,000 affordable homes target and the emphasis on housing within 'Prosperity for All' – working towards this ambition alongside accelerating delivery should also drive up standards, quality and accessibility.

Making sure housing is always a priority for Local Government, particularly as local authorities continue to consider how best to deliver high quality public services against the backdrop of austerity is vitally important. For us, understanding how housing functions within local authorities operate in this climate is imperative, particularly given the varying picture of housing functions across Wales, and the recent drive for local authorities to begin building homes again.

Demonstrating housing's role in keeping people well and healthy is something that is recognised as vital by many people from the housing sector across Wales. Innovative practices have led to reductions in delayed discharges from hospital, less pressure on GP services, and the speeding-up of the installation of vital home adaptations. The TTC project will focus on how this practice can be spread and shared across Wales to ensure everyone is able to access fair and consistent services no matter where they live.

Mirroring the remit of CIH Cymru, the TTC project operates on a cross-tenure basis, recognising the need to ensure that whether renting or buying, people should have access to a safe, secure, affordable home.

Background

We are seeking to commission an individual/organisation to complete research on our behalf exploring the role of housing advice provided by hospital discharge teams, or services commissioned to support safe and timely hospital discharge.

We know that there is considerable good practice amongst housing, health and social care colleagues working together to get people home from hospital as quickly as possible whilst in tandem ensuring their home is safe and fit for purpose. In recent years the Wales Audit Office has undertaken studies seeking to better understand more effective approaches to discharge planning taken within each Local Health Board in Wales. In their work, they outline that these teams undertake a number of discharge planning activities. According to the data returned by NHS bodies, this includes offering housing options advice to facilitate timely discharge and support to help maintain independence at home. It is these aspects of the activity that we are interested in focusing on.

The ways in which people are supported to leave hospital quickly and safely has been a natural area of overlap between the health, housing and social care sectors, producing a number of collaborative projects. This remains an important area of focus where we believe there may be opportunities to further improve practice, supporting professionals working on all aspects of this work.

Aims of the research

This is a primary piece of research seeking to find new data and is being commissioned with the aim of producing work which:

- Provides a contemporary analysis of when and how housing advice is used in the hospital discharge planning process;
- Provides a picture of how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted/changed the hospital discharge process across different local health boards;
- Helps identify if there is variance in the role housing advice plays within the process comparing across local health boards and provides an understanding of the reasons behind this;
- Includes a focus on the experiences of people with protected characteristics; and
- Highlights good practice taking place that sees housing advice, or better connections with the housing sector improve the effectiveness of the hospital discharge planning process

Activities and outputs

- Design a methodology that incorporates a mixed-methods approach identifying sources to gather and gain appropriate data and intelligence
- Establish an approach to stakeholder engagement that ensures the research gains the insights of those involved in different aspects of the hospital discharge planning process (Strategic, managerial, operational, patient/lived experience).
- Capture and identify information that warrants additional focus to uncover new insights relevant to the work
- Produce a short report (15-30 pages) focussing on the findings of the research formulating recommendations in collaboration and agreement with the CIH Cymru team.

Project timescale

The project timeline should reflect the desire to produce a final report 16 weeks following the awarding of the contract.

Budget & other resources

The following budget and resources are available to support this research:

- We have a budget of £15,000 (incl. VAT) to cover time spent undertaking this work. (Please note that payment will be made against agreed project milestones).
- Access to the CIH Cymru policy team
- Access to the wider CIH Cymru network of contacts and the TTC advisory board

How to apply

Applicants are asked to submit a written proposal (no more than 10 pages) outlining a potential methodology, addressing research aims and ability to undertake the outputs described above.

In addition, applicants should provide information relating to their experience, examples of previous work and a proposed implementation plan and budget for the work.

Scoring criteria, we will mark all applications as set out below.

- 60% - Proposed research design/approach

- 40% - Evidence of knowledge skills and expertise

All applications should be sent to matthew.kennedy@cih.org by Friday, December 4th at 5pm.

Fancy a chat?

If you would like any further information about this research proposal, or would like an informal chat about the work – please contact matthew.kennedy@cih.org 07534404742 or Catherine.may@cih.org