

Consultancy and CPD Training

The Housing and Communities Research Group, led by Professor David Mullins, is part of the School of Social Policy at the University of Birmingham. With a team of professors, senior research fellows, lecturers and PhD students, the group draws on a wide range of skills and expertise. In addition to the large scale projects, the group also work with practitioners and industry on short-term consultancy projects (1 to 4 month projects) on our core themes and fields of interest including:

- Housing solutions for low and middle income communities
- Role of organisational design, governance and partnerships
- Social housing, Community led housing, Self- help housing and Cooperatives
- Role of Private Rented Sector in housing low and middle income households
- Social Lettings Agencies – to secure decent private rented accommodation for homeless and housing options referrals from local authorities
- Choice based Lettings – conditionality and need in social housing allocations
- Homelessness, young peoples' housing options, youth homelessness
- Generation rent – the expanding role of private renting for younger households
- Community led engagement, Community investment and financial inclusion
- Renewing older housing and empty homes
- Governance and leadership of housing organisations
- Non-profit sector housing
- Social enterprises in housing
- Civil society and housing

What sort of research consultancy work do we do?

- Documentary Analysis and Expert Opinion
- Qualitative Interviews and Focus Groups
- Policy design and analysis, challenging assumptions and purposes, assessing outcomes and impacts, discourse analysis and Q methodology
- Sector profiling, mapping organisational fields, panel surveys and roundtables, Delphi methodology
- Organisational development- Case studies of governance, mergers, alliances and partnerships
- Strategy development and futures planning with boards and senior management teams – Away Days and Scenario Planning events

- Monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes
- Participative evaluation to inform organisational and partnership learning

What kind of outputs could you expect?

- Think Pieces - Comment or Expert Opinion Pieces
- Informal and Formal Reports
- Co-produce policy and practice reviews
- Feedback Presentations and Seminars

As part of the University of Birmingham's School of Social Policy, there are a number of excellent professional training qualifications that are on offer around the themes of leadership, management and social work including:

- Enabling others (supervision, assessment and mentoring skills for the workplace)
- Enabling reflective practice in the workplace
- Leadership and management
- Leadership and management for social care (MA/PG Diploma)
- Leadership and management for social work (MA/PG Diploma/PQ Award)
- Adult social work
- Specialist award in social work with adults
- Children and families social work
- Post-qualifying award in social work with children, young people, their families and carers
- Leading learning for effective safeguarding



If there is a demand from the sector, we would be happy to tailor the above courses to include a social housing theme.

In addition the Housing and Communities Research Group can provide 1 day or half day research engagement opportunities at the University of Birmingham or at your organisation, such as:

- Seminars on topical issues
- Interactive Workshops
- Board/ Senior Leadership Away Days including a combination of topic-based presentations, training and interactive workshops

Previous Clients

Previous Clients for Consultancy and CPD include:

- Midland Heart
- Jephson Housing
- Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations
- HACT
- BSHF
- Tudor Trust

For more information please don't hesitate to contact:

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