

Housing Young Parents

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Overview



- Following Young Fathers study
- Background to PhD research
- Research design
- Housing policy
- Home and identity

Following Young Fathers



- ESRC funded 2012 - 2015 QL study
- 35 fathers aged 15 - 25
- Most fathers have strong desire to be a 'good' father
- Disadvantaged fathers face severe barriers in developing parenting identity & role
- Housing and a search for a stable home are significant issues as they experience frequent transitions between temporary accommodation

Following Young Fathers



“It’s harder for me cause then I’ve got nowhere to go, nowhere to live. And I’m like sponging off people’s mums and that. And then obviously I can’t go and see [partner] can’t bring [son] down to see me. So...it’s just harder on me”(Jimmy)

“If I’m happy where I live I should be alright” (Darren)

Gaps in current knowledge

1. Limited micro-dynamic evidence on young parenthood
2. Housing pathways of young parents
3. Young parents' experiences of supported housing schemes
4. Impact of welfare reforms

- Co-production

Enables practice-informed research

Collaboration at all stages of research

Enables access to 'hard to reach group'

Reciprocal voluntary work

- QL methods

Addresses *how* and *why* questions; aims to understand *what matters* to people as a precursor to understanding *what works* in policy terms

- Families are disproportionately affected by cuts and most in need of housing support
- 44,510 households with dependents in temporary accommodation (*Wilson October 2014*)
- Proposals to cut housing benefit for under 25's
- 347,360 total under 25s claiming HB
- 202,892 under 25s with dependents (*DWP May 2014*)

Temporary accommodation

- Typical housing trajectory of young parents involves multiple moves
- Hostels considered the worst as they are associated with a degree of stigma (Cooke and Owen 2006)
- Living in temporary accommodation can have serious adverse affects on children (Harker 2006)
- Non-primary carer (usually the father) classed as low priority and may be given unsuitable accommodation – restricting contact

Home and Identity



- This does not meet the conditions of 'home as a haven' (Brueckner, Green and Saggars 2011) or notion of 'ontological security' (Dupuis and Thorn 1998)
- Independent living and autonomy important for transition to adulthood and identity formation (Mitchell and Green 2002)
- 'Home' conflated with family, self, gender, security and the imaginary, this may negate some negative affects of poor housing