

For Sale

student housing crisis

"Many students in Newcastle are having issues with finding suitable and feasible housing options. We need to look into this from an urban planning perspective"

"If students cannot look after my properties or drop out of contracts, that causes financial issues for me too"

"The wellbeing of students is suffering! Universities and local governments need to ACT NOW!"

"This crisis of affordable student housing also impacts our local community; the non-students who are also seeking accommodation with different needs to students"

"Looks like I will need to skip tonight's meal to pay for this electricity bill"

2



literature review

Journal articles and online sources have identified the Housing crisis situation for students, in general and the North East

Planning policy documents related to the provision of houses and homes in the North East into how other locations have dealt with their housing issues in terms of better urban planning implementations.

3

data collection

Semi structured interviews with various stakeholders. I gained different experiences as I spoke to people from a range of backgrounds and ages. I also conducted online surveys using Google Surveys to achieve a larger scale of responses from the student body of NCL Uni on their housing experiences in academic year 22/23.

4

data analysis

Thematic analysis was carried out on the data from the interviews, looked at any patterns in what the stakeholders had to say on student housing. The majority (80%) of interviewees said about supply/demand of appropriate housing and costs being a massive hindrance to a successful system of student housing.

5

stage 5 - research findings

70% of students in Newcastle University agree that the financial side of private housing is way above the average student budget. In the most recent academic year, around 2/3 of the tested student body struggled to get suitable housing near the university, many having to resort to living in further out areas like Heaton and extra costs of travelling into uni for them- many get public transport which is not financially helpful on top of rising housing bills.

Financial issues and issues with damage and quality within housing is found to have a massive strain on mental health across student body. It is found that Newcastle has an adequate supply of purpose built student accommodation in the city centre area, compared to other student cities like Glasgow and Manchester. This has been a recent positive development. However the primary issues of affordability and quality housing lies with people wanting to rent houses and private accommodation.

Expensive housing and dwellings with health and safety concerns have been reported too much in areas like Sandyford and West Jesmond and change needs to be made for students in private housing. It is noted that Newcastle University provides all first years with guaranteed accommodation in halls, but the concerns lie when students reach second year as they have to fend for self. More support and tips for housing could be carried out by the Student Union.

Through research and talking with council worker, I have came up with some planning initiatives to combat crisis:

- Development and possible change of effective policies and strategies on a local level for the supply of housing and ensuring a high level of quality is carried out in dwellings. Newcastle is not the same as London or Manchester, so local issues should be dealt with in a more local planned system rather than following national policies. Policies should be more specific to student housing and the means of living
- enhanced collaboration between the Council and Newcastle Uni on the provision of housing for students, leading to more coordinated ways of improving the situation
- Connected to the last point, local government officials could combine with the student union and student housing groups in order to provide a support service for housing.

For sale

research aims

1. To investigate the current state of the student housing crisis in Newcastle upon Tyne and understand its causes and impacts. (Supply / Demand, Challenges).
2. To explore the role of planning and urban regeneration interventions in addressing the student housing crisis.
3. To propose innovative planning and urban regeneration strategies to combat the student housing crisis.

stakeholder 1
estate agent(s)

stakeholder 2
student renter(s)

stakeholder 3
student support officer(s)

stakeholder 4
local authority housing officer(s)

Adapted open-source (CC) images from: Alexey Muravev, Jacob Lund Photography, Javier Sanchez Mingorance, Lincoln City Council, Your Move, Savills, Scopic.

This poster summarises action-research undertaken by Dan Martin (student number: 210390054; programme of study: MPlan; email: d.c.l.martin2@newcastle.ac.uk) during summer 2023 supported by funding from Newcastle University Vacation Scholarship Team.