

## Media response to the winner of the 2018 ECR


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### Meet the sector's junior researcher of the year

INSIGHT 28/11/18 7:00 AM BY CARL BROWN

The inaugural Thinkhouse Early Career Researcher's Prize sought fresh thinking from housing researchers who are just starting out. *Carl Brown* looks at the competition and the winning entry. *Photography by Simon Brandon.*



### The impact of social housing on child development outcomes.

WINNER OF OUR ECRP PRIZE, Anya Martin, Peabody Research

This paper uses Millennium Cohort Study data to compare the cognitive, health, emotional, and behavioural development outcomes of children living in social housing compared with those living in private rented housing in England. It builds on work on previous birth cohort studies to examine how the relationship between tenure and outcomes has changed over time, and how, when controlling for a limited set of socioeconomic factors, the children of social housing tenants are no worse off than the children of private renters. This challenges research which has previously found they tend to be worse off, even when controlling for various socioeconomic factors.



### The winner and her prize-winning research



thinkhouse @ThinkhouseInfo · 18 Dec 2018  
@AnyaMartin8 of @PeabodyLDN receiving her @ThinkhouseInfo Early Career Researchers Prize cheque from our sponsor @Steve\_Altair of @AltairLtd. Thank you to all those who applied & to our judges @Steve\_Altair @saldridg @Gibb6781 @BethWatts494 @HousingGemma @richard\_hyde #ukhousing



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For the prize winner, the research idea was not just about boosting her profile or advancing her career; it was also to get something off her chest.

"I grew up in social housing...I take personal offence when people say social housing has a negative impact on you growing up," says Ms Martin.

The paper sought to challenge the findings of previous studies that typically found children in social housing have worse development outcomes than those in other tenures - and these negative outcomes are a result of the tenure itself.

Ms Martin used data from the Millennium Cohort Study, an ongoing study tracking the lives of 19,000 children born in 2000-01. The dataset includes information about parenting, education, cognitive performance, health and parents' employment and income.

### What the judges said

Mr Aldridge was fulsome in his praise for Ms Martin as far as saying he could envisage it as the research used to aid policymaking at MHCLG.

He said: "There has been a lot of debate about social housing on outcomes) with people trying to explain the facts. Behind the clear explanation is good, and the research analysis methods used

***"I grew up in social housing...I take personal offence when people say social housing has a negative impact on you growing up," Anya Martin***

Mr Aldridge added that he had seen regression analysis methods used