



Children and Young People Select Committee

How living in temporary accommodation affects children

Date: 10 March 2020

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Scrutiny Manager

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of the work programme for 2019/20 municipal year, the Select Committee agreed to carry out a short review of how living in temporary accommodation affects children.
- 1.2 The scope of the review was agreed in July 2019. Evidence has been gathered through meetings with officers, Ombudsman's reports, desktop research, visits to Rathfern and Rushey Green Primary Schools, conversations with Lewisham families living in temporary accommodation.
- 1.3 The Chair also visited Hamilton Lodge, a former care home that was converted to a temporary accommodation hostel in 2016. The hostel provides 74 bedspaces over 21 units, including one after-hours emergency facility (2 bedspaces). The Chair will provide the Committee with an oral account of his visit, together with any thoughts or observations he may wish to share.
- 1.4 Evidence was gathered from Housing Officers at the last meeting of the Committee on 23 January.
- 1.5 The attached report re-presents the information that the Committee considered on 23 January with the inclusion of ethnicity data and information on Lewisham's use of temporary accommodation in Harlow following the airing of a BBC Panorama programme entitled "Cashing in on the Housing Crisis".
- 1.6 A set of draft recommendations is provided at Appendix F. These were drawn up by the Chair and incorporate suggestions put forward by Members.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members of the Select Committee are asked to:

- note the report and appendices A-F;
- Comment on and agree a set of recommendations to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet.

3. Legal implications

3.1 The report will be submitted to Mayor and Cabinet, which holds the decision making powers in respect of this matter.

4. Financial implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report. However, the financial implications of any specific recommendations will need to be considered in due course.

5. Equalities implications

5.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations set out in this report. The Council works to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment, promote equality of opportunity and good relations between different groups in the community and to recognise and to take account of people's differences.

For more information on this report please contact Emma Aye-Kumi, Scrutiny Manager, on 020 8314 9534.

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