

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD -

22 JUNE 2023

PUBLIC QUESTION

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public of the Chair of the Board.

Questioner: Jordi López Botey

Asked of: Councillor Paul Osborn, Chair of the Board

Question 1:

“Background

On 21 March we came to this Board to raise concerns about the health impact of unacceptable housing conditions in the private rented sector in the borough. We asked the council whether it would review its public health strategy with regard to housing-related health inequalities posed by poor housing conditions and inadequate enforcement. In response, The Chair requested that when considering the Healthy Place domain, housing in the private rented sector be addressed. It was further commented that it was important to have some representation from Housing colleagues (as per the notes from the previous meeting).

Since that question was raised, a recent case has highlighted the lack of enforcement of housing conditions, important issues with landlords not being held accountable by the Council to date, and the lack of support for tenants experiencing poor housing conditions that lead to their health deteriorating. This case has also highlighted the need for a local public health strategy to address the urgent problem of poor-quality housing that harms the health of residents.

Questions for Board

With regards to the above, we would ask the Board to please:

- Clarify what practical steps Harrow Council is taking to review its public health strategy and to address the threat to health posed by poor housing conditions, particularly in the private rented sector, in the borough (as per the commitment made in the previous Board meeting) and advise on what additional short-term and/or practical support could be provided to the residents who are facing ongoing health problems as a result of their inadequate and unfit housing conditions, and what steps the Health and Wellbeing Board will take to ensure that this is urgently provided (eg: raising the issue to the

Council's leadership, with the Environmental Health team, and establishing arrangements to improve data gathering and analysis in partnership with local healthcare providers in order to better understand the scale of the problem).“

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Questioner: Jackson Caines

Asked of: Councillor Paul Osborn, Chair of the Board

Question 2:

“At the last Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on 21 March, I asked about the Council’s strategy for tackling poor housing conditions in Harrow’s private rented sector, which are having a detrimental impact on the mental and physical health of tenants. The Council leader mentioned two new initiatives: a cross-council damp and mould team, and a review of residential licensing enforcement. Could he please provide more detailed information about both of these developments?”