

## Examples of policies and interventions addressing housing related health risks for young children (2016/17)

As leaders in housing and public health, many local authorities are considering how they can mitigate the impact of poor accommodation in children's health. With particular challenges in housing supply in some areas, local authorities and their partners may be looking at this issue afresh or with renewed urgency. NCB has identified examples of relevant policies and interventions through a [survey](#), a review of literature from key organisations such as Chartered Institute of Housing and Sitra, and the published homelessness prevention strategies of local authorities with high rates of temporary accommodation use. This collection of examples aims to support local authorities by stimulating ideas for local practice that can promote and protect children and young people's health. For more information about the relationship between housing and the health of young children see NCB's [Policy and Evidence Briefing](#). These documents have been produced as part of the [Health and Care Voluntary Sector Strategic Partners Programme](#).

Local authority area	Organisation(s)	Description of policy or intervention	Health risks it addresses – policy and evidence briefing reference	More information
Ipswich (Suffolk)	Ipswich Borough Council Private Sector Housing team	The Private Sector Housing team have been carrying out a door to door knocking scheme and raise awareness of housing conditions/services available in the private sector. Tenants are offered free house inspection and advice to improve housing conditions. Also, private owners are advised about grants available.	Safety in the home; Physical condition of housing and long term health	[Project not publicised to minimise risk of fraudsters impersonating the home visitors]

<b>Nottingham City</b>	Coalition of statutory and VCSE organisations	Increased use of enhanced private renting assistance scheme (PRAS) for accommodation of families fleeing domestic violence. This provides more flexibility of location (compared to use of social housing and emergency accommodation) so that families can be kept safe whilst maintaining links with current services and support networks.	Mental Health and Development; Access to support	<a href="#">Nottingham City Inter-agency Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013 – 2018</a>
<b>Barking and Dagenham</b>	Barking and Dagenham council housing and children's services departments	Through the 'Early Rent Alert' scheme identifies those at risk of serious arrears so that support and advice on how to avoid losing their accommodation can be provided. Vulnerable families, owed a duty of support by children's services, are to be prioritised for this support.	Mental Health and Development; Access to support	<a href="#">Draft Homelessness Strategy London Borough of Barking and Dagenham 2016-2021</a>
<b>Oldham</b>	Oldham Council, Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Keepmoat and eight local social landlords	A warm homes scheme offers a range of support to help households out of fuel poverty. The eligible groups include households with pregnant women and households with children aged under 16.	Physical condition of housing and long term health	<a href="#">Sitra (2015) Study into the Impact of the Housing Workforce on Health Outcomes: Examples of health and wellbeing initiatives</a>

<b>Enfield</b>	Enfield Council	Under the Keeping House scheme homeowners in long term residential care lease their empty home to the council for a fixed period of between two and five years and in return receives guaranteed rental income to help fund the cost of their care. The local authority uses the property to provide temporary accommodation. Older homeowners are more likely to live in larger houses, meaning this scheme creates a supply of emergency accommodation suitable for families, avoiding overcrowding.	Mental Health and Development;	<a href="https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/adult-social-care/support-and-care/keeping-house-scheme/">https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/adult-social-care/support-and-care/keeping-house-scheme/</a>
<b>Camden</b>	Camden Council Overcrowding team, Department for Communities and Local Government	As part of a pilot project to support families in overcrowded accommodation, four specialist advisers provided a range of advice and support. They arranged for practical solutions like bunk beds, fold away desks, extra washbasins and toilets, or retractable partition walls. Families were advised on organising their household routine and offered counselling to deal with the disputes that can arise when families are forced to live so close together.	Safety in the home; Mental Health and Development;	<a href="http://camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/press/2007/july/overcrowded-camden-families-/">http://camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/press/2007/july/overcrowded-camden-families-/</a>