

## Islington Council and the University College London Overcrowding survey

- To be completed by one member of the household on behalf of the whole household
- To be sent to residents on the housing register currently living in overcrowded conditions via email or by post

### INTRODUCTION

There has never been more demand for rented accommodation in Islington. We have learnt from previous surveys that living in overcrowded accommodation is an important issue for Islington residents. We are reviewing the allocation policy and how we can make things easier for residents living in overcrowding. We would therefore like your help to understand better the impacts of overcrowding for you and your household, and your opinions on what actions the council should consider.

The survey will take around 10 minutes to complete. Your responses are anonymous and will be stored securely by the Council. The anonymous survey responses will only be seen by the staff conducting this survey and those involved in any future programs. Any identifiable information that you share with us, such as your name or contact details, will be stored separately from your survey responses and only used if you have specified that you would like to be contacted again. Your participation in this survey is voluntary; responding indicates that you are consenting to take part.

If you have any questions about this survey or would like a follow up conversation to discuss any issue in more detail, please contact \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. The effects of living in an overcrowded home

People find living in overcrowded homes affects them in different ways. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Living in an overcrowded home affects *me* in the following ways...

	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
It makes me feel anxious						
It makes me feel depressed						
It affects my breathing (worsens asthma, COPD)						
It disrupts my sleep (I get less sleep or it's more disturbed)						
It makes it difficult for me to work						
It makes it difficult for me to study						
It makes it difficult for us to keep our home clean						
It makes it difficult for me to take part in social activities (e.g. having family or friends around)						

Living in an overcrowded home affects others *in my household* in the following ways

	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
It makes one or more of my household feel anxious						
It makes one or more of my household feel depressed						
It affects one or more of my household breathing (worsens asthma, COPD)						
It disrupts one or more of my household sleep (get less sleep or it's more disturbed)						
It makes it difficult for one or more of my household to work						
It makes it difficult for one or more of my household to study						
It makes it difficult for one or more of my household to play						
It makes it difficult for one or more of my household to take part in social activities (e.g. having family or friends around)						

Overcrowding may affect you in other ways. Please use the box below to write any additional impacts not listed above or comment on the impacts of overcrowding on your own or on your household's health and wellbeing

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**2. Aside from the number of people in the house, what has made the experience better?**

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Access to outside space e.g parks so we spend time somewhere other than at home			
Access to other places for children to play and learn, e.g. children's centres			
Being close to family/friends/work			

Please use the box below to write any additional factors that have made the experience better:

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**3. Aside from the number of people in the house, what has made the experience worse?**

	Yes	No	Not applicable
We can't use all the rooms in my home because of damp/mould			
Drying clothes indoors further reduces usable space in my home			
We can't use all the rooms in my home because some rooms are too cold in winter			
We can't use all the rooms in my home because some rooms need repairs			
We are reluctant to use outside space near my home because of crime/anti-social behaviour nearby			

Please use the box below to write any additional factors that have made the experience worse:

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#### 4. What should the council consider doing?

The council are looking into different ways to make it easier to manage household overcrowding as, sadly, the wait for larger homes is very long.

In order to help the council understand what residents want, please indicate which of the following you think the council should investigate for Islington. [NB Not all these options will be feasible for Islington residents – your answers to this question will help the council prioritise what they investigate further.]

	Should be a priority	Could be acceptable	Not suitable for us	Already been offered/used by us
<b>Making life easier without moving house</b>				
Providing free or low-cost <b>storage</b> facilities nearby				
<b>Home design</b> advice to maximise usable space				
Advice on <b>space saving furniture</b>				
Prioritising <b>repairs</b> for overcrowded homes				
Improving <b>outdoor space</b> attached to your home				
Opportunities to use <b>communal space</b> , for household jobs (e.g. drying clothes)				

Opportunities to use <b>communal space</b> , for study, play, socialising				
<b>Strategies involving some or all of your household relocating to a different home</b>				
Moving adult children into their own home				
Home swap within Islington				
Home swap outside of Islington				

Please add any comments, views on those listed above or suggestions for other strategies.

### 5. About you

The information you provide us with will be used to improve our services and ensure that we have a range of responses from across our communities. These are standard questions we ask but if you do not wish to answer, that's fine. The information which you provide on this form will be kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

How many adults (i.e. over 18 years old) live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

How many children live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

For each child, give their age and gender

	Age	Gender
Child 1		
Child 2		
Child 3		
Child 4		
Child 5		
Child 6		

How many bedrooms do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of dwelling do you live in?  studio flat/bedsit  flat  house

Does your home have an outdoor space which you and your family can use?

Yes  No

[Consider branching questions to find out more about the outdoor space type]

How long have you been on the housing register?

What best describes your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Transgender

- Nonbinary
- Prefer not to say

What is your age?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65+

Do you consider yourself to be disabled or have a long-term illness (e.g. cancer diabetes, mental health condition)?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say
- If you answered yes, what is your disability? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your ethnicity? <<Give options as in other council surveys>>

## 6. Further input

The council would like to talk to residents in your situation to learn more. If you or one of your household that is over 18 years old would be prepared to talk about your experience, please let us know below:

I would be prepared to take part in a

- 30 min 1-1 telephone discussion
- 1 hour group discussion in person
- 1 hour group discussion online

Email: phone:

## THANK YOU

Thank you for your participation in this survey.

We value your opinions, and your voice will contribute to important insight that will guide how we design our services. If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, or want to better understand how your data are being used, please contact \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to find out more information on housing services, please visit: \_\_\_\_\_