



Evidence Islington Strategic Delivery Board: October 2024

Date and time

23 October 2024, 2pm–3:30pm

Agenda

1. Progress updates

- **Progress since July includes:** procurement of a new data hub; hosting the London HDRCs Advisory Board meeting; hosting a visit from Professor Brian Ferguson (Director of the NIHR Public Health Research Programme); beginning the HDRC baseline evaluation; and recruiting further members of the core Evidence Islington team.

2. Housing

Homes and neighbourhoods priorities

- The Strategic Delivery Board were introduced to the **strategic priorities** of the **Homes and Neighbourhoods team**. This included priorities as outlined in the Housing Strategy, as well as general priorities the council has as a landlord.

Overcrowding

- The Strategic Delivery Board were given an overview of a **research collaboration** between University College London and Islington and Camden Councils, which **investigated overcrowding in Islington**.
- The project found that, in Islington:
 - Rates of overcrowding were **similar to national estimates**, but a little higher.
 - Overcrowding rates are **highest in local authority homes** and lowest in owner-occupied homes.
 - Families living in overcrowding were significantly more likely to have **damp/mould repairs** than families not in overcrowding.
- The project emphasised the need for **short-term solutions to alleviate the impacts of overcrowding** while people wait to be rehomed.

Other ongoing projects

- **Health and Housing data linkage:** The Strategic Delivery Board were introduced to a project which aims to **link data between Housing and health services**. The project is testing whether sharing information can help identify households with health issues that might be made worse by damp and mould. This could help prioritise which homes need support first.
- **Evaluation of Council data usage:** The Strategic Delivery Board heard how AL, as a researcher embedded in the Housing team, is trying to understand **how data processes around damp and mould data affect staff behaviour**.
- **Voluntary and Community sector and resident engagement:** The **Diverse Communities Health Voice (DCHV) partners** help residents with various housing issues and often experience delays in accessing the Islington Council Housing team. Healthwatch Islington and Evidence Islington are working with DCHV to understand these problems and develop tools to support them in their work.

Discussion

- The Strategic Delivery Board considered **how data on overcrowding could influence work** within and outside of the Housing directorate, and **how residents may be affected** by this work.

Actions

- **Action 1:** MSch to amend wording of July SDB action 2 from 'data dashboards' to 'data hub'.
- **Action 2:** AB and ChaA to explore Evidence Islington's approach to supporting rapid responses to bid opportunities.

Upcoming meeting dates

- 22 January 2025, 2pm–3:30pm
- 23 April 2025, 2pm–3:30pm