



Sent by email to
Leaders of all Essex Boroughs

Contact: Eloise Shepherd
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21 December 2018

Dear Leaders of Essex Authorities

Thank you for the letter of 14th December 2018 outlining your concerns regarding the placement of households across Local Authority boundaries.

As Leaders we share your concerns about the housing crisis and the impact that is having on boroughs' ability to secure accommodation for an increasing number of households. In London alone there are over 50,000 households in Temporary Accommodation on any given night, and we fully recognise that the impact of the 8% of homelessness placements made outside of London falls predominately on Essex and Kent, and that this number has proportionally increased (6-8%) in the last year. We also welcome the conversation about other kinds of placements.

Since the publication of our last London wide guidance note the Homelessness Reduction Act has also increased the level of Local Authority involvement in a broader range of cases, and we are in the process of updating the note to recognise this.

However the conversation you raise is fundamentally at a larger and more strategic scale and in particular we welcome the opportunity to engage at this level.

I suggest we arrange to meet in the New Year to discuss better ways of working together, how we can jointly respond to new challenges in this area and to agree a line for joint lobbying to government. Officers will be in touch to arrange dates.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darren Rodwell".

Cllr Darren Rodwell
Executive member for Housing and Planning
London Councils

cc Mayor of London
James Murray, Deputy Mayor, Housing and Residential Development