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Evidence-informed recommendations from researchers at the University of York's Department of Health Sciences, School for Business and Society and Hull York Medical School, in association with the Bradford Health Determinants Research Collaboration

Recognising the important public health role of supported housing and non-commissioned exempt accommodation

Dr Kelli Kennedy, Dr Amy Barnes, Professor Nicholas Pleace, Dr Katie Pybus and Dr Adam Formby

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Supported housing is an important public health asset and needs to be better recognised as such in national and local policy, including funding decisions.

- Supported housing is not a formal part of the health or social care system.
- Its low profile and lack of understanding about its role has created threats to its funding. While it is expected to take pressure off the NHS and social care services, lack of formal appreciation for this role undermines its ability to do so.
- Yet supported housing is a core public health asset - with different types of supported housing impacting in different ways on the health and wellbeing of different population groups (e.g. *prison leavers, those with learning disabilities, those fleeing domestic violence*) with particular risks of public health harms for people living in non-commissioned exempt accommodation.

Key recommendation: formally recognise the public health role of supported housing in supported housing strategies

Based on recent University of York public health-centred research - including 15 qualitative interviews with non-commissioned exempt accommodation residents in Bradford and a rapid review of supported housing research related to outcomes - **we recommend the introduction of a new statutory duty for supported housing strategies to take account of the public health role that different types of supported housing play locally**. For example, this could require strategies to:

1. Include evidence and analysis of the public health role that different types of supported housing play locally (benefits as well as harms) and to detail any local actions that need to be taken (with partners) to ensure that different types of supported housing interface effectively with health and social care;
2. Involve representatives of the NHS and local Director(s) of Public Health (or their representative) as statutory partners in their development (alongside social services authorities);
3. Be shared with all relevant local statutory and strategic partnerships (e.g. Health and Wellbeing Board) to ensure local partners are aware of the challenges and complexity of supported housing issues; and
4. Involve residents of different types of supported housing in their development.

Read the full [How Could Local Authorities Improve Supported Housing? rapid review report](#)

See our [40-second animation highlighting the key finding from our qualitative research](#)

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