



The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

21 November 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

This Christmas, thousands of homeless children face an increased risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) due to their living conditions.

There are currently 131,370 children living in Temporary Accommodation (TA) in England, mostly placed in inappropriate accommodation such as B&Bs, hotels or hostels. 50% of all homeless people in England are children.

Families without a home can spend weeks, months and sometimes years living in one room with no cooking facilities, no laundry facilities, no safe space to play and, increasingly, no safe place to sleep. A mortality review had found that at least 34 children had died, with Temporary Accommodation being listed as a contributing factor to their untimely death. Most of these children were babies under 1 year of age.

I am sure you can agree that this is entirely unacceptable.

Temporary Accommodation is never the ideal solution, but for many families it is the only option. Families having to stay in TA should have the right to a **safer, secure** and more **peaceful** experience of their homelessness journey, and yet for far too many it is anything but. Currently, there is no statutory requirement to provide a cot or Moses basket for children under 2 in Temporary Accommodation.

When safer sleep advice cannot be followed, this can contribute to an increased risk of SIDS.

This truly is a Silent **Nightmare**.

We are asking that the Government change their Homelessness Code of Guidance, to provide cots and Moses baskets in Temporary Accommodation. Then, all homeless children under the age of 2 will have access to a safe place to sleep and a reduced risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

With this simple act, the Government can support homeless children towards a better, safer start in life.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhain McDonagh MP, Chair of the APPG for Households in Temporary Accommodation

Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Salford and Eccles.

Paula Barker MP, Liverpool Wavertree,

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP, Brighton, Kempton and Peacehaven.

Caroline Lucas MP, Brighton Pavillion

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

Polly Neate, CEO, Shelter

Professor Monica Lakhanpaul, Professor of Integrated Community Child Health, Consultant Paediatrician, UCL

Dr Laura Neilson, CEO, Shared Health Foundation

Simon Gale, CEO, Justlife Foundation

Dr Nadzeya Svirydzhenka, Associate Professor/Reader in Culture, Identity, and Mental Health at De Montfort University, Leicester

Jenny Ward, CEO, The Lullaby Trust

Ian Swift, Director of Housing Operations and Deputy Corporate Director, Islington Council

Councillor Una O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities, Islington Council.

Philippa Iwiniki, Manager, Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network

Kwajo Tweneboa, Social Issues Campaigner

Jane Oglesby B.Sc (Hons) M.B, Ch.B, Chair of the Shared Health Foundation. Trustee of the OGLESBY Charitable Trust

Gary Bishop, CEO, Arch Healthcare

Joanna Cain, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Westminster

Alex Bax, Chief Executive, Pathways

Dr Chris Sargeant, Secretary, Faculty of Homeless and Inclusion Health

Michale Chandler, CEO, Groundswell

Rachel Brennan, Participation & Progression Director, Groundswell