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**Healthwatch Solihull's response to Solihull Council's Draft Housing Strategy**

Healthwatch Solihull are pleased to see the commitment from taking health inequalities into consideration to the Housing Strategy.

As a local Healthwatch, we have been contacted by members of the public who are affected by various health inequalities or struggles with housing. People have struggled to get the help and support they need to understand things clearly.

We are pleased to see the council consider the health outcomes using the 'Health Equalities Assessment' to impact the Housing Strategy. We think that assessment covers many health inequalities, but it is important to remember the importance of intersectionality of health inequalities. Many individuals may be affected by multiple health inequalities at the same time, and this would have a different impact on their health outcomes. If this is considered in the assessment it will make sure that the most vulnerable are given attention that is needed and the vision, 'Everyone in the Borough is able to access housing at the point of need' as stated in the Housing strategy is met.

Healthwatch Solihull therefore believes that there needs to be clear guidance about how intersectionality may impact the assessment. Otherwise, only those who are 'fit in one box/intersectionality" may be adequately represented – increasing the likelihood of inequality/ inconsistencies across Solihull.

Generally, Healthwatch Solihull agrees with what is outlined in the draft strategy and we believe that the public need to be kept informed and engaged as this moves forwards.

Yours Sincerely,



Oluwakemi Adebajo

Project Officer



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