

Dear Esteemed Councillors & Guests,

Homelessness has become a real problem. It is only just the start of never ending complications for individuals and families which also results in a further drain on local services and resources and so can no longer be ignored.

I've looked at recent studies done by the 'Shelter Organization' 'Homeless Link' & 'Government Figures' on the reasons why people in particular families with young children become homeless.

-By the end of March 2016 there were 71,540 households living in temporary accommodation that's an increase of 11% on the same time last year.

-Also 9% more households were accepted as being homeless than during the same period in 2015.

Furthermore, the number of households made homeless due to the end of an assured shorthold tenancy has continued to rise, both in quantity (4,650) and by proportion (31%).

"Yet again, the private rented sector is shown to be a major contributor to the figures with more people falling out of tenancies and into homelessness, while it offers few solutions to help people out of it."

(Rick Henderson, Chief Executive of Homeless Link 2016)

Compared to Quarter 1 2015 the latest statistics show that in Quarter 1 2016;

- Homelessness due to the loss of an assured shorthold tenancy remained the biggest cause of homelessness at 31%.

As a mother of 3 including a disabled son I have been the victim of landlords abusing the assured shorthold tenancy to their advantage. I am currently also going through the same difficult process again as I have recently been given notice by my current landlord.

Previously, my landlord issued me with a section 21 through the courts claiming he needed the house back so his ill mother could occupy it. Having been the perfect tenant with all the rent being paid on time along with the house being maintained to a high standard the landlord had no choice but to use the Section 21 to evict me with his 'reasons'. To my horror after being evicted the reasons used by the landlord turned out to be false as immediately after I moved out he moved a new tenant in. Here the landlord not only used the section 21 to his advantage but also perjured in court with his reasons as he never intended to move his 'ill-mother' into the property.

Section 21- Absurdly gives landlords a blanket right to evict families for no reason.

I'm seeking protection for families from Section 21 being used without a valid reason. Along with consequences for landlords who choose to use Section 21 with malicious intent i.e. revenge evictions. Families across the UK especially in Leicester are in urgent need of long term protection from this cruel practice. The current 6 month protection for tenants is not adequate unless the landlord is selling the property or is himself becoming homeless. A lot more needs to be done to prevent tenants with families being evicted. A mutual agreement from both party should be put into place where a reasonable time frame can be agreed

upon. Moreover, tenants having to pay the court fees under Section 21 brought by the landlord should be totally scrapped.

The whole experience has a lasting effect on everyone involved. My experience has made me feel lost, an unworthy parent, unprotected, weak and at the mercy of my landlord. The local authority who are already stretched were nowhere to be seen. Having put my name and bid on the local housing list numerous times over the past 2 years but to no avail has left me in a further state of depression. Stemming from the fact that all landlords have the ability to take full advantage of the situation without any accountability.

Today I request you to inform me on what measures you can or will put in place to end these practices and at the same time what immediate support can you offer to people like myself in this situation.

Thank you.