

Welcome to this second issue of Health and Housing which delivers the latest news and updates from our Health and Housing project, straight to your inbox

Meet Naomi, our Health and Housing Project Officer



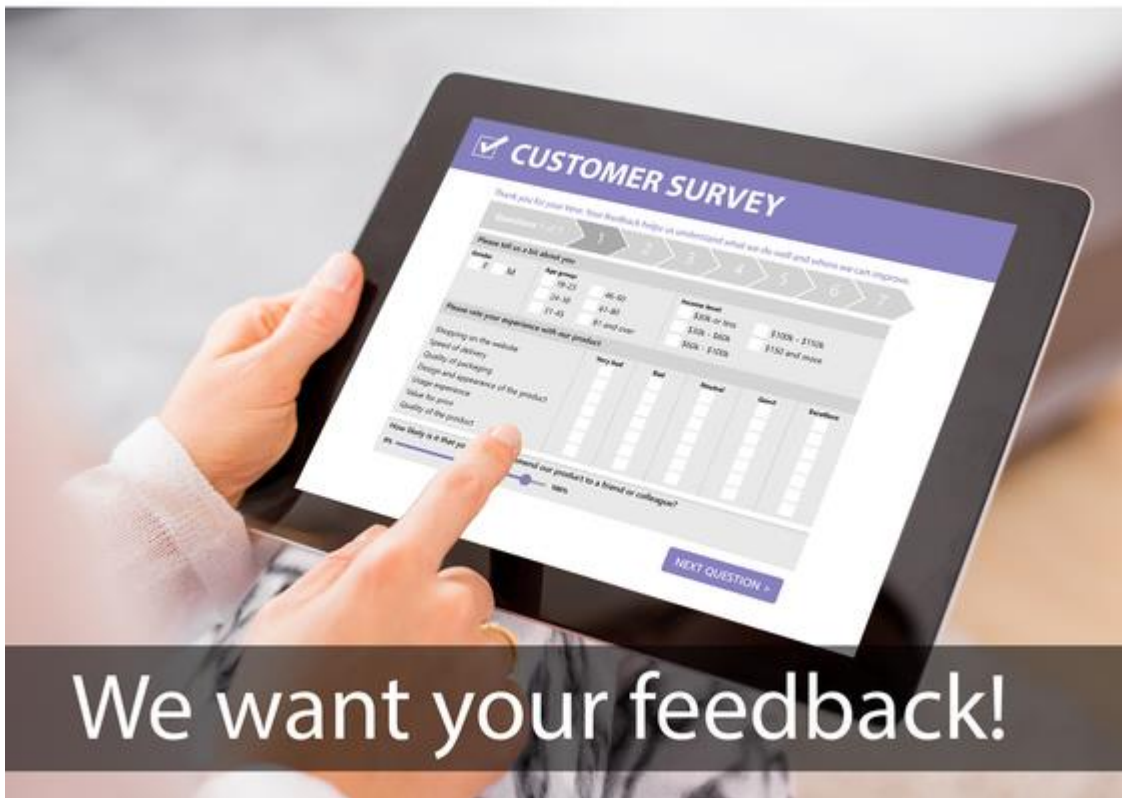
Naomi is our Health and Housing Project and has been working in Colchester Borough Council's Private Sector Housing Team since the project began in January 2017.

The Private Sector Housing team inspects and regulates privately rented accommodation to ensure that it meets the legal minimum standards, complies with housing legislation and that tenants are living in safe housing conditions.

This particular project focuses on raising awareness of the services that the Private Sector Housing Team can provide and Naomi works with health and social care partners, support groups, organisations and charities throughout the borough educating and making them aware of how poor housing conditions can affect the health and/or safety of the occupier or their visitor. It's really important for these professionals to know who they can contact when conditions in someone's home cause concern so as part of this project Naomi's established referral pathways which are being regularly used.

In her role, Naomi also assists residents with complex situations, whether its enforcing formal notices upon a landlord to carry out required works in a property or signposting residents on to further services that are available in Colchester such as My Social Prescription, Age Concern, or Essex Fire and Rescue Service.

When asked what she loves most about her role, Naomi said "I love being out and about meeting new people and helping local residents by solving problems in their home which makes a real difference to their health and lives".



We want your feedback!

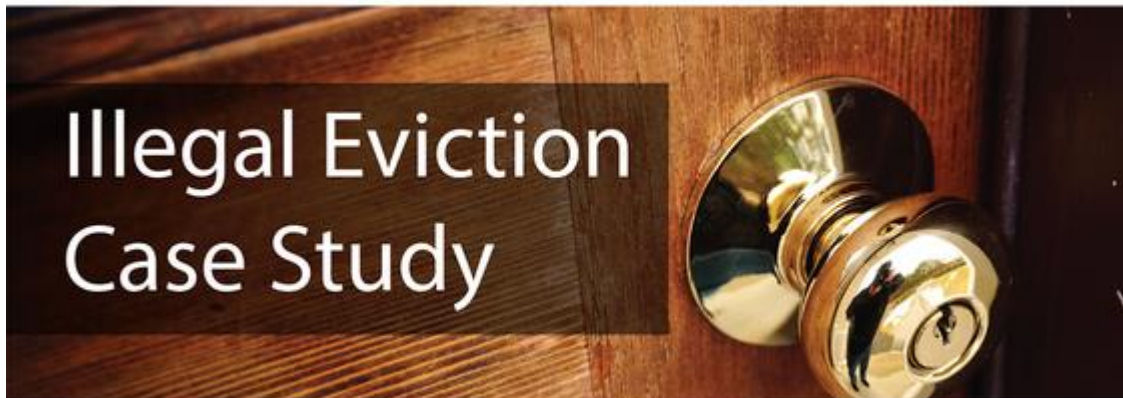
We're keen to know our customers' views on the service they've received through the Health and Housing project and have created online customer satisfaction surveys to help us gather this information. If you're a partner who has submitted a referral in to the project, please complete [this online survey](#), and if you're a resident who was referred to us, please complete [this online survey](#). The surveys only take a few minutes to complete and your feedback is really important to us.

Referral Form Changes - Reminder

Following the introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulations which came into force on 25 May, our referral forms have been updated to ensure they're compliant with the legislation and are available on [our website](#). Please note that we are no longer able to accept our previous forms anymore.

If you would like a copy of the correct referral form sent to you directly, please email healthandhousing@colchester.gov.uk.





One of the aims of our Health and Housing project is ensure residents have access to the range of support services that are available to them by working together with other professionals and organisations. Since this project began, we've been publishing Health and Housing case studies on our website and our latest case study about an illegal eviction where a number of health and safety hazards were identified is now live on our website and is available to view [here](#).

Do you own, let or live in shared accommodation in Colchester? If so, you may be affected by upcoming licensing changes



Under [new national legislation](#), from 1 October all shared accommodation (including houses and flats) which meets the following criteria will require a licence:

- Is occupied by 5 or more people from 2 or more households (i.e. the occupiers are not all members of the same family);
- Occupants share 1 or more basic amenity (i.e. kitchen, bathroom, or toilet)

To find out if the property you own, let or live will require a licence from October, use our [online licence checker tool](#).

For more information, please visit [our website](#).

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