

Lessons Learnt From an Asthma Death- Awaab Ishaak; Impact of poor housing on asthma outcomes

Lisa Cook, ICS CYP Asthma Practitioner

11th July 2024





Bitesize Webinar

- Please turn your cameras on 😊
- 12:30-12:35 Welcome & Introductions
- 12:35-13:05 Lessons Learnt
- 13:05-13:15 Q&A
- 13:15 – 13:30 Survey





Introduction

- We are:

Surrey Heartlands CYP Asthma Team 'Beating Asthma Together'

Team members are:

Suzanne Bailey – ICS CYP Clinical Respiratory Lead/Senior Specialist CYP Asthma Practitioner – suzanne.bailey5@nhs.net

Specialist CYP Asthma Practitioner – Lisa Cook – lisa.cook40@nhs.net

With support from: Charlotte Arnold and Julia Newman – CYP Long Term Conditions Transformation Leads

Keeping an eye on us and the budget are Fiona Whitaker and Kylie Langridge, and we also have support from Nicola Mundy from Surrey County Council

Team email address: syheartlands.childrensasthma@nhs.net





Housing – Damp & Mould

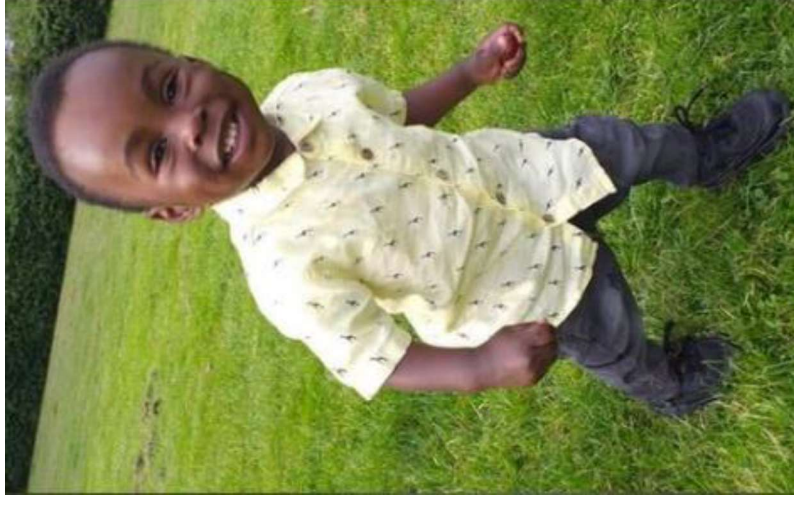
This is 2-year-old Awaab Ishak from Rochdale who tragically died on 21st Dec 2020. He lived, with his parents, in a damp and poorly ventilated flat which caused lots of health problems for him.

The coroner recorded his medical cause of death as:

1a, acute airway oedema with severe
granulomatous tracheobronchitis.

1b, environmental mould exposure.

[Awaab Ishak - Prevention of future deaths report - 2022-0365 \(judiciary.uk\)](#)





Photos from the national media of Awaab's home





What happened?

- In 2017 the presence of mould in the family home was reported to Rochdale Boroughwide HA (RBH). Father was advised to 'paint over it'
- The family had recently arrived from Sudan and it was not made clear to the father that specialist paint was required.
- 2018 – Awaab was born.
- 2019 – the family applied to be re-housed.
- There was evidence that the mould remained in the flat but no further complaint was made until 2020.
- Around the same time the family also consulted a solicitor to make a disrepair claim due to the mould.
- A Health Visitor was shown the extent of the mould in 2020 resulting in a letter being sent to RBH highlighting concerns of the impact on Awaab's health. Awaab had recurring symptoms such as runny nose, cough and URTI's and his GP confirmed he attended their surgery more than most children.





What happened Ctd

- Later in 2020 an inspection was carried out by RBH. They confirmed the presence of mould in the kitchen and bathroom. However, the policy at this time was not to progress to repair and treatment until the agreement of the solicitors had been obtained.
- No action had been taken to treat the mould by the time Awaab died on 21st Dec 2020. At the time of his death significant mould was present in all the rooms in the flat.





Evidence heard in court

- Mould was sampled from Awaab's home by a Consultant Mycologist.
- He gave evidence on the illnesses and harm, including death, which can arise from the inhalation of fungi from mould.
- Current health risks relating to damp and mould are not widely known to the housing sector.





Coroners Concerns

- There is a risk of further deaths unless action is taken.
- The 2006 document 'A Decent Home: Definition and Guidance for Implementation' does not consider damp and mould
- The Housing Health and Safety Rating System data sheet relating to damp and mould and risk is not reflective of the current risks of the harm that damp and mould cause to health.
- No evidence that up-to-date health information relating the damp and mould was available to the housing sector.
- The private landlord sector does not have access to the Housing Ombudsman for their complaints to be investigated independently.





The English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 - Surrey

Indices of deprivation in Surrey	IMD explained	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) by Local authority or CCG	Income Deprivation	Employment Deprivation	Education, Skills and Training Deprivation	Health Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to housing & services	Living Environment Deprivation
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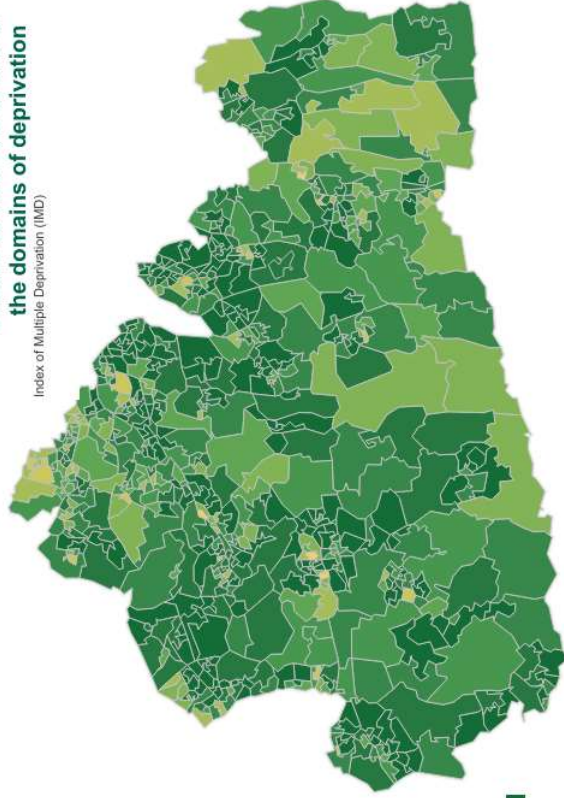
Choose to view IMD or one of the domains of deprivation

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

This dashboard allows you to explore the Indices of Deprivation 2019 published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, for small areas (LSOAs) in Surrey.

On this page, use the filter to view the overall IMD or the individual domains of deprivation for the whole of Surrey.

Or choose one of the options at the top of the page to explore the indices for a single Local Authority or Clinical Commissioning Gro..



© 2024 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Most deprived
Least deprived



Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) How LSOAs in Surrey rank in England (out of 32,844 where rank 1 is most deprived)

Rank	LSOA name	Ward	CCG
4800	Reigate and Banstead 008A	Hooley, Merstham & Neith...	East Surrey
5986	Woking 004F	Canalside	North West Surrey
6441	Guildford 012D	Westborough	Guildford and Waverley
6539	Guildford 007C	Stoke	Guildford and Waverley
6666	Spelthorne 001B	Stanwell North	North West Surrey
6862	Mole Valley 011D	Holmwoods	Surrey Downs
7138	Reigate and Banstead 005A	Tattenham Corner & Prest...	Surrey Downs
7437	Epsom and Ewell 007A	Court	Surrey Downs
7818	Spelthorne 002C	Ashford North and Stanw...	North West Surrey
7871	Woking 005B	Goldsworth Park	North West Surrey
7886	Runnymede 002F	Englefield Green West	Windsor, Ascot and M...
8212	Elmbridge 004B	Walton South	North West Surrey
8231	Reigate and Banstead 018D	Horley Central & South	East Surrey
9080	Waverley 002E	Farnham Upper Hale	North East Hampshire ..
9197	Spelthorne 001C	Stanwell North	North West Surrey
9226	Waverley 010A	Godalming Central and O...	Guildford and Waverley
9605	Runnymede 006D	Chertsey St. Ann's	North West Surrey
9830	Reigate and Banstead 010E	Redhill West & Wray Com...	East Surrey
9840	Guildford 010C	Ash Wharf	Surrey Heath
10002	Runnymede 007D	Addlestone North	North West Surrey
10013	Spelthorne 008E	Sunbury Common	North West Surrey
10033	Spelthorne 008B	Sunbury Common	North West Surrey
10099	Spelthorne 005B	Ashford East	North West Surrey
10110	Epsom and Ewell 002C	Ruxley	Surrey Downs
10169	Reigate and Banstead 015E	South Park & Woodstock	East Surrey

[Indices of Deprivation 2019 for areas in Surrey | Surrey-i \(surreyi.gov.uk\)](#)



Association between domestic mould and asthma in children.

- Numerous studies have highlighted the relationship between living in a damp and mouldy home and its effects on respiratory health.
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0360132324000684> This is a systematic review and meta-analysis of the literature in the past 33 years looking at the effects of residential damp indicators on asthma, rhinitis and eczema among children. The review looked at 1579 documents from 5 database platforms.
- The hypothesis was that indoor damp exposures in residences have consistent and significant risks of asthma, rhinitis and eczema in childhood. The literature confirmed this hypothesis.
- In 2009 an early WHO report stated that damp-related exposures could increase approx. 30%-50% odds of asthma related outcomes in children.





Chapter 4: Dwelling condition - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Figure 4.5: Damp problems, 1996 to 2022

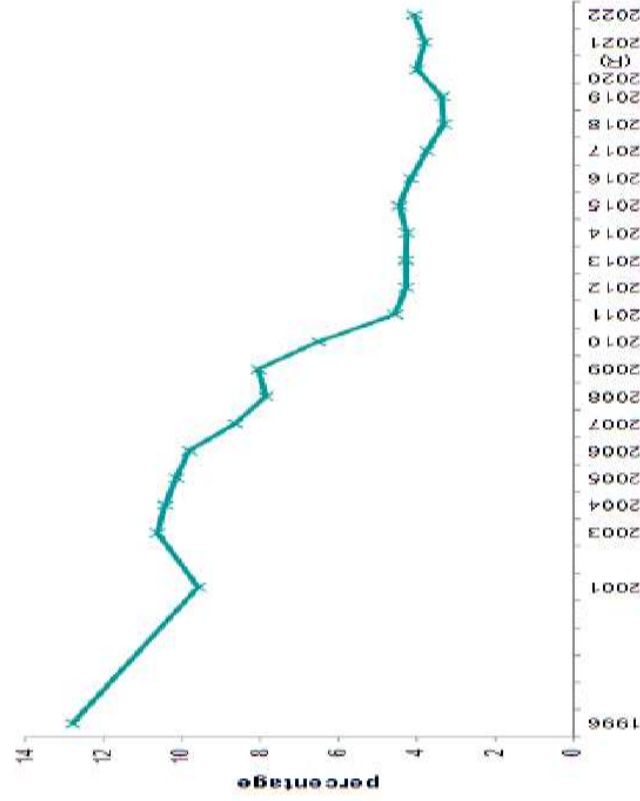


Figure 4.6: Dwellings with any damp problems, 2021 and 2022





What is the relationship between deprivation, modifiable factors and childhood deaths: a cohort study using the English National Child Mortality Database

David Odd ^{1,2} Sylvia Stolanova,² Tom Williams,² Dawn Odd,³ Jennifer J Kurinczuk,⁴ Ingrid Wolfe,⁵ Karen Luyt 

Table 5 Subdomain measures identified as strongest associations with childhood death

IMD subdecile	Category of death									
	All deaths	Acute medical and surgical	Congenital anomalies	Chronic medical	Deliberately inflicted injury	Infection	Malignancy	Perinatal	Suicid	Suicide or deliberate self-harm
Income										
Employment	1.64 (1.43–1.87)							1.04 (1.01–1.07)		1.12 (1.02–1.23)
Child education						1.11 (1.05–1.16)				
Adult education	1.53 (1.35–1.75)		1.12 (1.06–1.18)							
Health		1.05 (1.01–1.11)		1.03 (1.02–1.04)						
Crime	0.97 (0.95–0.99)		0.95 (0.91–0.99)							0.93 (0.82–0.99)
Geographic Barriers										
Wider barriers	1.05 (1.03–1.08)		1.07 (1.02–1.12)					1.06 (1.05–1.1)		
Outdoor living environment			1.04 (1.01–1.07)							
Indoor living environment	1.03 (1.01–1.05)		1.05 (1.01–1.09)							

Red boxes show measures where increase in deprivation measures are associated with high risks of death. Green boxes show measures where increase in deprivation measures are associated with lower risks of death.

¹Adjusted for age, sex, region and rural/urban area.

²IMD, Index of Multiple Deprivation.





A systematic review of associations between environmental exposures and development of asthma in children aged up to 9 years



S Olick¹, A Friend², K Dynes², F A Khandani², E Doust³, H Cowie³, J G Ayres^{1, 4}, S W Turner²

Correspondence to Dr S W Turner, s.w.turner@bch.ac.uk

Abstract

Objectives Childhood asthma is a complex condition where many environmental factors are implicated in causation. The aim of this study was to complete a systematic review of the literature describing associations between environmental exposures and the development of asthma in young children.

Results 14 691 abstracts were identified, 207 papers reviewed and 135 included in the present review of which 15 were systematic reviews, 6 were meta-analyses and 14 were intervention studies. There was consistent evidence linking exposures to SsS, inhaled chemicals, mould, ambient air pollutants, some deficiencies in maternal diet and respiratory viruses to an increased risk for asthma





- Fuel Poverty, Cold Homes and Health Inequalities in the UK - IHE (instituteofhealthequity.org)

Recommended by Dr Ian Sinha, Consultant Paediatrician in Liverpool, in which there are high levels of deprivation





What is needed?

- National government level support
- Education for HCPs – within the tiered training
- Health and housing to work together – not usual in paediatrics – need to build relationships
- Need to jointly agree criteria for housing improvements and for re-housing
- Investment is required into housing – social housing
- Michael Gove – housing will be held to account – national team working with levelling up team
- Awaab's Law needs to be applied to all housing not just social
- Work on prevention – it's illegal to rent out a property without fire escape, smoke alarms or carbon monoxide monitors
- Have conversations with parents, identify the vulnerable, criteria of those that need to be alerted to housing, how do we make the pathways into housing, housing assessments need to fit for purpose, timely and actions taken
- Stop delays, poor assessments, tenants not being blamed
- Housing ombudsman contact barriers removed
- Citizens advice saying that delays are not acceptable
- National team working on a pathway
- How to highlight the most vulnerable – core20plus5





Actions:

- [Housing Ombudsman Spotlight report on damp and mould \(housing-ombudsman.org.uk\)](https://housing-ombudsman.org.uk) This report had been written at the time of the inquest. Here are some of the themes relevant to the family home of Awaab:
 - too much emphasis is placed on mould being due to ‘family lifestyle’ such as cooking, bathing and drying clothes.
 - A lack of proactive action to consider wider potential sources of damp such as structural.
 - A lack of proactive action regarding lack of ventilation.
- [Understanding and addressing the health risks of damp and mould in the home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)





Awaabs Law

As of 20th July 2023, the much-anticipated Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 (the Act) has now received Royal Assent and become law, paving the way for the most significant social housing reforms in over a decade. The Act brings positive change and transformation within the social housing sector by strengthening tenants' rights and ensuring they live in safe, good quality homes devoid of health risks posed by building hazards.

The Act emerged from the Social Housing Green Paper, as a direct result of the Grenfell Tower disaster in 2017. It makes provision for increased regulator intervention, including powers to issue uncapped fines to landlords; and 'performance improvement plan notices' if landlords fail to meet repair standards. It also paves the way for the introduction of Awaab's Law.

Awaab's Law will require social housing landlords to follow strict time limits to inspect and repair hazards, including damp and mould. Awaab's family's suggested timeframe was 14 days to investigate a reported damp and mould hazard and a further seven days to carry out urgent repairs. On 9th January 2024, the Housing Secretary announced new plans to launch a consultation which proposes to introduce these new strict time limits to force social housing providers to take swift action in addressing dangerous hazards such as damp and mould. The proposed legal requirements for social landlords will mean they must investigate hazards in 14 days, start fixing within a further 7 days, and make emergency repairs in 24 hours. [Discover the full government guidance update here.](#)





Local Actions:

- [Private Sector Housing Damp and Mould Action Plan.pdf](#)

Guildford Borough

- Some evidence of damp and mould forums starting up in some housing associations. In the process of requesting that representation from health is present at these forums.
- National Bundle of Care for CYP with Asthma work – Environmental Impacts





CYP Asthma Bundle Deliverable

Standard:

- Asthma network should work together alongside local council services and other housing providers to ensure housing quality is not impacting on the health of CYP at risk of or diagnosed with asthma. **ACHIEVED**
- Pathways of communication between health and local housing providers should be developed to inform housing when the indoor environment is thought to be critical. **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED**
- If strategies to address poor indoor air quality have been unsuccessful or insufficient, alternative housing should be offered by local housing providers. **NOT ACHIEVABLE**

Deliverables:

- Asthma network leads should develop a joint policy between healthcare and the local housing providers to ensure CYP with asthma do not live in conditions that might exacerbate their symptoms. **IN PROGRESS**
- Asthma Services should agree criteria for alerting housing providers when the environment is thought to be critical. **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED**
- All clinicians managing CYP with asthma should be able to signpost families to appropriate advice (eg Citizen's Advice) when there are housing concerns. **ACHIEVED** A PDF signposting families to the CYP Asthma Toolkit is available on all Surrey borough web pages about damp and mould.





Damp & Mould Factsheet

If you still have damp or mould in your home

If you have followed the advice on treating mould, or you can't follow the advice because of an issue such as the heating not working, or broken extractor fans, then contact your home provider (landlord, letting agent or council) and:

- Clearly describe the problem, ask them to investigate and do the necessary repairs or improvements
- Do this in writing in case you need to prove that they knew about the problem at a later date. Provide photographs of the mould if you can
- Do not stop paying your rent. This could put you at risk of being served an eviction notice

If your home provider does not investigate or do the necessary repairs within a reasonable time period, you may want to contact your local Environmental Health Team for further advice. Contact details will be on your District or Borough Council's webpage www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/borough-and-district-council-responsibilities

Visit www.actionsurrey.org for free advice on options for making your home more comfortable and ways to help you save money on your energy.

Produced in partnership by Public Health and Environmental Health teams across Surrey, December 2023. Ref: DampMould 1223



Damp and Mould Fact Sheet



Damp and mould (due to condensation)

Many homes suffer from damp and mould growth, often due to condensation. To avoid mould growth you need to eliminate dampness e.g. from condensation.

Causes and signs of condensation

Air holds moisture - the warmer the air, the more moisture it can hold. When most air cools by contacting cold surfaces, such as walls, windows or mirrors, the moisture condenses into water droplets (known as condensation).

Mould appears as pinpoint black spots, usually on the inside surfaces of external walls, in corners and poorly ventilated spaces, such as behind cupboards and wardrobes. Mould is a type of fungi which grows in damp conditions and produces spores to help it spread. These spores can be inhaled which can cause ill health.

Tips to help prevent condensation and mould growing in your home

Heating

- Try to keep your home warm with a low background heat of at least 18°C
- Open windows or doors to unused rooms frequently to circulate air
- Avoid using gas bottle heaters as these produce moisture

Drying clothes

- Where possible dry clothes outside
- Avoid drying clothes on radiators. Use a clothes rack in a room where a window can be opened, or an extractor or dehumidifier is on
- Vent tumble dryers to the outside or use a condensing dryer

Kitchen

- When cooking close connecting doors and open a window, use extractor fans

Bathroom

- Put lids on pans
- Use extractor fans where fitted
- Close connecting doors and open the window to let the air circulate
- After a bath or shower, use a squeegee to remove excess water from tiles and shower screens

Windows

- Air your home, by opening windows when possible
- Leave trickle vents open
- Wipe away condensation on windows

Furniture

- Leave a small gap between furniture and outside walls
- Avoid putting mattresses directly on the floor as air needs to circulate underneath

How to treat mould

It is your responsibility to treat mould in your home that is the result of condensation.

- Carefully remove excess mould with a damp cloth and throw it away. Do not brush mould as this releases spores into the air
- Use mould and mildew products (or diluted bleach) to clean affected walls, ceilings and paintwork, and follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Empty cupboards and wardrobes affected by mould and thoroughly clean them and the contents
- Dry clean or wash clothes in hot water. Check care labels on clothes and wash at the highest recommended water temperature
- Shampoo carpets
- Once the mould is removed from walls, ceilings, and woodwork and the area is completely dry, redecorate using anti-mould (fungicidal) paint or wallpaper paste
- Remember, the only lasting way to avoid mould is to reduce condensation in your home





FOR PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY

The parent/carer of the below has consented to this referral.

SB/EW - NHS Surrey Heartlands ICB Housing Ref V3 Jan 2023

damp/mouldy environment):

☐ Yes ☐ No

Reference: [80858-ODPM-Housing-PFI-Cover \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://doi.org/10.1080/00071724.2023.2214000)

CSA/EW - NHS Surrey Heartlands ICS Housing Ref V3 Jan 2023



Instrument	Constructs and 2 to 4 sample questions for	Measurement
Parental involvement Parental involvement was measured using the Parental Involvement in Children's Education (PICE) scale (Hawthornthwaite, 2006). The PICE scale consists of 10 items that assess parental involvement in their child's education. The items are: (1) "I help my child with their homework," (2) "I encourage my child to do well in school," (3) "I talk to my child about their school," (4) "I read to my child," (5) "I help my child with their schoolwork," (6) "I encourage my child to do well in school," (7) "I talk to my child about their school," (8) "I read to my child," (9) "I help my child with their schoolwork," and (10) "I encourage my child to do well in school." The PICE scale is a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much).	Parental involvement Parental involvement was measured using the Parental Involvement in Children's Education (PICE) scale (Hawthornthwaite, 2006). The PICE scale consists of 10 items that assess parental involvement in their child's education. The items are: (1) "I help my child with their homework," (2) "I encourage my child to do well in school," (3) "I talk to my child about their school," (4) "I read to my child," (5) "I help my child with their schoolwork," (6) "I encourage my child to do well in school," (7) "I talk to my child about their school," (8) "I read to my child," (9) "I help my child with their schoolwork," and (10) "I encourage my child to do well in school." The PICE scale is a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much).	Measurement Parental involvement was measured using the Parental Involvement in Children's Education (PICE) scale (Hawthornthwaite, 2006). The PICE scale consists of 10 items that assess parental involvement in their child's education. The items are: (1) "I help my child with their homework," (2) "I encourage my child to do well in school," (3) "I talk to my child about their school," (4) "I read to my child," (5) "I help my child with their schoolwork," (6) "I encourage my child to do well in school," (7) "I talk to my child about their school," (8) "I read to my child," (9) "I help my child with their schoolwork," and (10) "I encourage my child to do well in school." The PICE scale is a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much).

[illegible]

16/01/2023 - NHS Surrey Heartlands ICB Housing Ref V3 Jan 2023



References

- [Indices of Deprivation 2019 for areas in Surrey | Surrey-i \(surreyi.gov.uk\)](https://surreyi.gov.uk)
- [Chapter 4: Dwelling condition - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Too many people, especially children, will be living in poverty in Surrey this winter. - Community Foundation for Surrey \(cfsurrey.org.uk\)](https://cfsurrey.org.uk)





Questions





Survey

Bite-size Learning 11/7/24



<https://forms.office.com/e/gXkiAFGtTQ>

