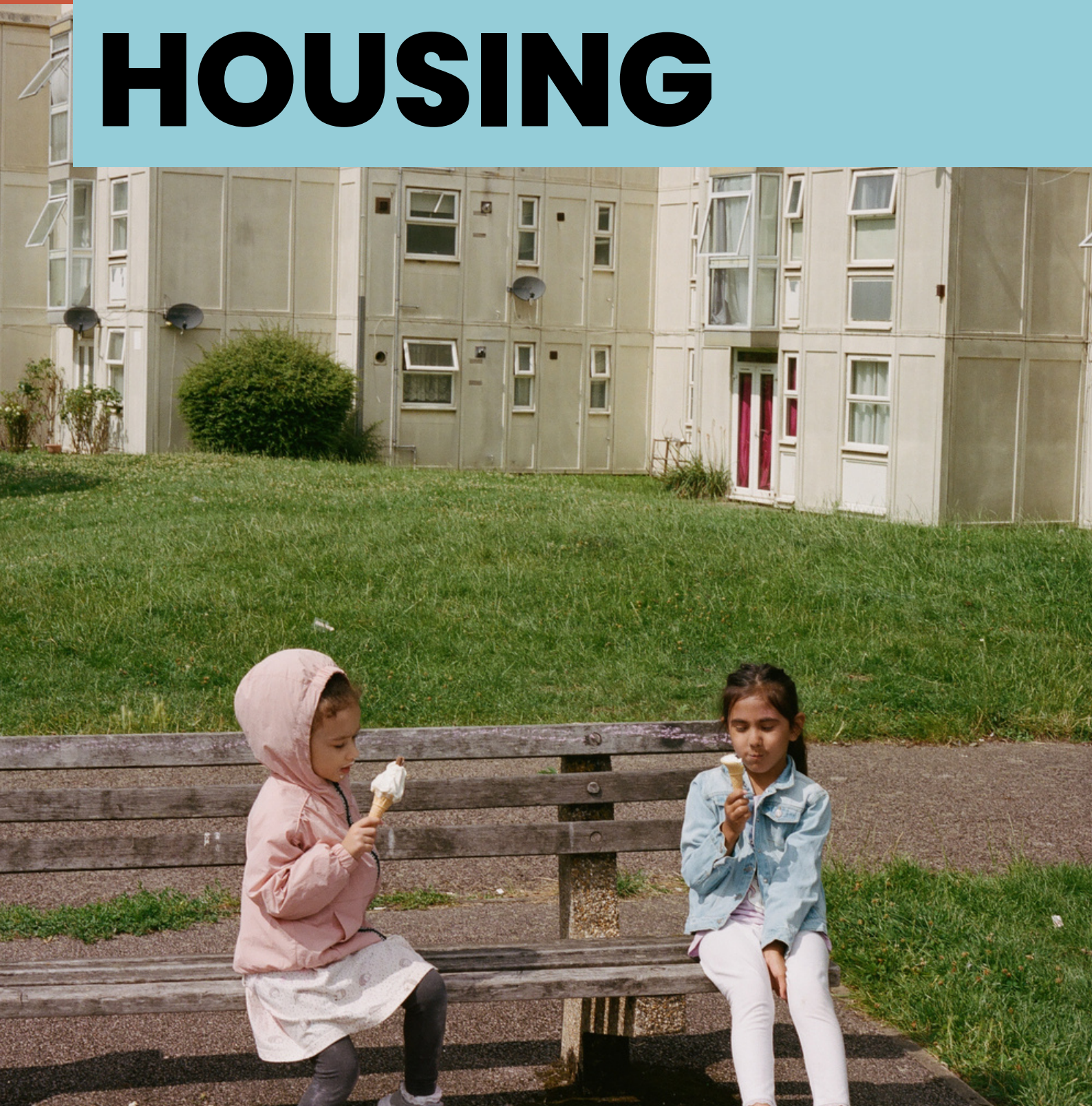


YOUTH VOICE

HOUSING



**Harrow Borough
Based Partnership**
Supporting better care and healthier lives



yh **youngharrow**
foundation

Introduction

My Yard is a charity working alongside the community living on the Grange Farm estate in South Harrow. They run targeted work that supports children and families living in poverty.

They are one of the six organisations that have been commissioned to lead youth research that will inform and support the development of the Family Hub model in South Harrow.

The focus of their youth research is to highlight how a young person's living conditions can impact them holistically, and better understand how communities can be engaged with through the family hubs model.

This document will show their latest youth led research, which they have conducted in the form of interviews, forming a mini-documentary.

The work was youth led, so while support and supervision was provided, the topics and questions were directed by the young people, for young people and not guided in any way, by adults.



The Research

Research Aims

To understand the impact of living conditions on children and young people.

Methodology

The research was conducted over a three week period in January 2024, and led by Dani N'Guessan who is a young person from the estate and a youth worker for the charity.

Dani spoke to young people on the estate as well as youth workers and professionals working with young people on the estate.

She has produced a video, which can be viewed below, to give a platform to these voices:



Reflections

There are a number of reflections and considerations for Family Hubs arising from this work.

- These interviews look at one estate in particular, and consideration should be given to the quality of housing and support to residents of temporary accommodation across the borough and whether the family hub model needs to play a role in this.
- Poor housing conditions / overcrowded housing can have an impact on a young person's ability to study, and therefore on their education. Experiences of this were shared in the interviews with young people, and reinforced by interviews with professionals. On this estate, one organisation is supporting this need with a homework club. How are these needs being **identified** or **addressed** for other temporary accommodation / overcrowding areas in the borough.
- Housing / hygiene guidance and support may need to be considered for families in Harrow - given the instances and experiences of families in this documentary of mice / maggots etc.
- Poor housing can have a serious impact on a young person's health particularly if they are living with conditions. For example, we hear in this video about a young girl who was living with damp / mould and how this exacerbated her asthma.
- On this estate - young people's sense of safety is being impacted by an ongoing issue with people who are homeless breaking into the estate to sleep rough in hallways. The council is aware of this particular issue.