

| ENDORSEMENTS

Christine Whitehead and Melissa Fernandez, LSE London

“We are very pleased to have been involved in this piece of research which has helped to clarify the problems for private tenants in Kensington and Chelsea, one of the highest rent areas in Europe. Up to date information on how tenants cope and the particular issues that they face when they have to move is of great value not only for the local authority but also for those pressing for longer leases. The recommendations provide a way forward for those working to improve conditions”.

Angela Fox, Caseworker, Age UK Kensington and Chelsea

“Private rented housing is the poor relation of housing and research into this area was much needed, particularly in Kensington and Chelsea, an area of high rents and old properties. I endorse the recommendations of the report and sincerely hope that it will help to generate changes which will improve the lives of people living in the sector.”

Brian Robson, Policy and Research Manager, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

“JRF’s evidence shows that the number of people in poverty in the private rented sector has more than doubled in the last decade. As such, it’s important that local practitioners and policy makers understand the impact in their area. KCSC’s report provides valuable insight into the experience of private renting in the Royal Borough.”

Megan Jarvie, London Poverty Project Coordinator, Child Protection Action Group

“With over 250,000 London children living in poverty in the private rented sector, CPAG welcomes this research into families’ experiences of renting privately. It provides a valuable insight into how well the sector is working for Kensington and Chelsea residents.”

Allison Roche, Policy Officer, UNISON, the public service union

“This timely report by Kensington and Chelsea Social Council demonstrates the urgent need for new intervention in the private rented sector. The recommendations outlined in the report are welcome, and if implemented would help to drive up PRS standards, stabilise rents and strengthen tenant rights, thereby making private renting more accessible, affordable, stable, secure and decent.”

Betsy Dillner, Director, Generation Rent

“Too little is known about the private rented sector, even in areas with the highest population of renters, which is why this research is so important. This report reveals the true experiences of conditions and costs facing renters in the borough. We hope that the findings will push the council into taking action – and wider research into the sector.”

Ade Sofola, Strategic Manager, 4in10

“The levels of child poverty in London owe much to the high cost of housing, particularly in the private rented sector. This research by KCSC gives real insight into the lived experiences of Londoners trying to secure accommodation with increasingly challenging requirements and costs. It is a vital tool for any policy maker wanting to intervene to support local people in the housing market and keep communities diverse across the capital.”

Karen Tostee, Project Manager, Kensington and Chelsea Citizens Advice

“This piece of research by KCSC is especially pertinent for a borough with such high housing costs as RBKC. The evidence collected by the research team gives clear insight into the problems private tenants are facing in RBKC - insecurity of tenure, high costs and living conditions. This is a valuable resource for policy makers and practitioners as well as the voluntary sector. I hope it is widely read and discussed, and that its practical recommendations will bring about positive change.”