

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

SPECIAL COUNCIL – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

QUESTION A

Councillor Srivastava to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

“Latest figures for England show there were 120,710 dependent homeless children living in temporary accommodation in December, highlighting the urgent need to build to build more affordable homes. Can the Leader of the Council confirm how many children and dependants in Rugby are currently homeless and living in temporary accommodations?”

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:

“Thank you for your question.

We currently have 84 households, including those comprising solely of single people, living in temporary accommodation in the borough. This includes 125 dependent children. There are no children living in Houses in Multiple Occupation.

However, it should be caveated that of the 84 households, we are still determining the status of 69 households, in respect of homelessness, and in accordance with the provisions of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

For families temporarily accommodated in Bed and Breakfast the longest stay is six weeks, as prescribed under the homelessness legislation. We ensure that families in B&B settings are prioritised for move on to alternative temporary accommodation before the 6 weeks deadline. We acknowledge that bed and breakfast accommodation is not ideal therefore we only use this when we have no other option. Instead, our preference is to accommodate families with dependent children in either self-contained private sector leased properties or council owned accommodation. The length of stay in such properties can vary according to the complexities of the individual case, the resulting housing needs and the supply of available properties to reasonably meet the housing needs. This can range from several weeks to several months.

We continue to apply a housing options approach to supporting these households and in doing so, it is often legitimate for us to enable an offer accommodation in the private rented sector to meet their needs longer term.”