

Respiratory Housing Toolkit

Turning poor-housing respiratory risk into practical clinician action

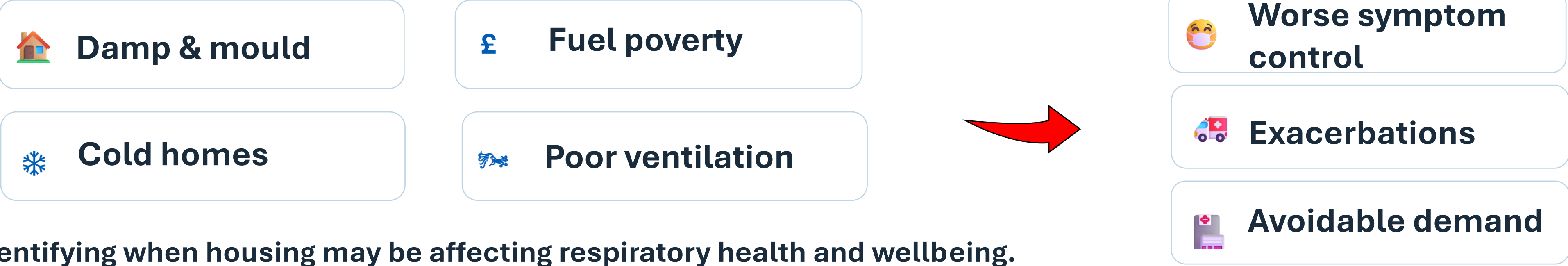
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Why housing matters for respiratory health?

Poor housing can be a modifiable contributor to respiratory ill-health. The toolkit helps clinicians move from recognition to action [1].

Healthcare professionals can play an important role in identifying when housing may be affecting respiratory health and wellbeing.



Background

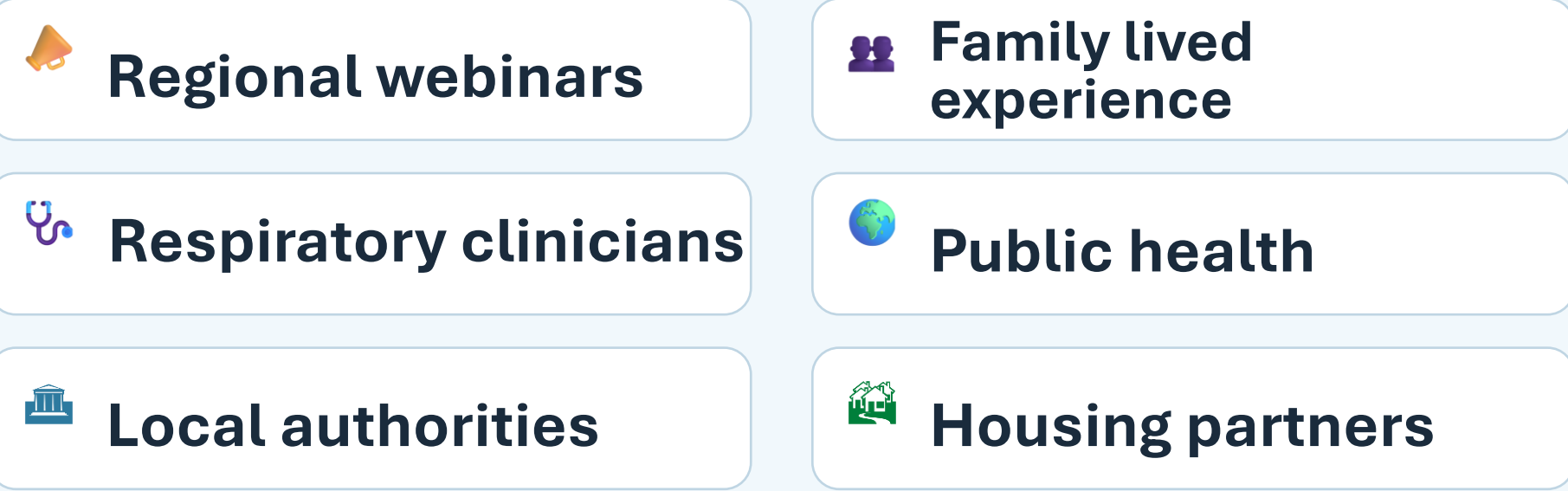
- Poor housing conditions, including damp and mould, are recognised modifiable risk factors for asthma morbidity and wider respiratory disease across the life course.
- Awaab’s Law highlighted the importance of safe, healthy housing following the death of Awaab Ishak, linked to exposure to damp and mould in social housing [2] [3].
- Clinicians can identify when housing may be affecting respiratory health and wellbeing.

The challenge

“Clinicians may identify housing concerns, but need a clear, proportionate and governance-compliant route to ask, assist and act.”

- Uncertainty about how to escalate concerns.
- Need for safe information sharing and consent.
- Multiple housing routes depending on tenure.
- Need to link housing action with social prescribing, safeguarding and local authority support.

Co-production approach

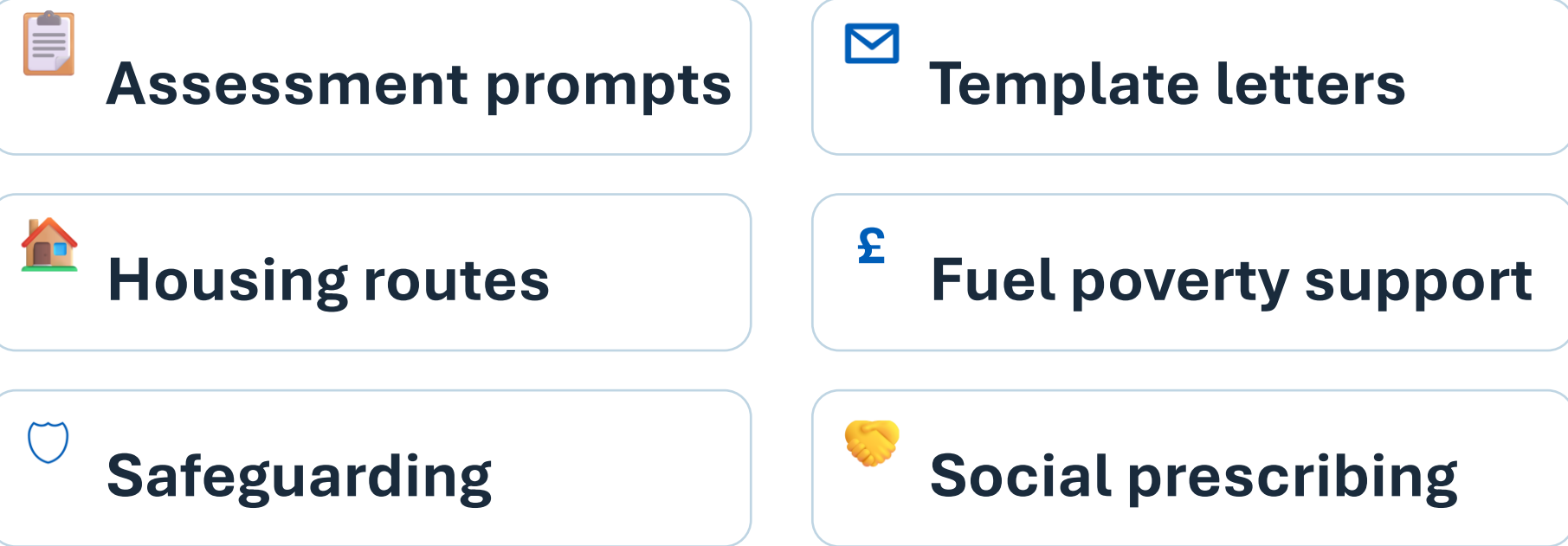


Multiagency Task & Finish Group



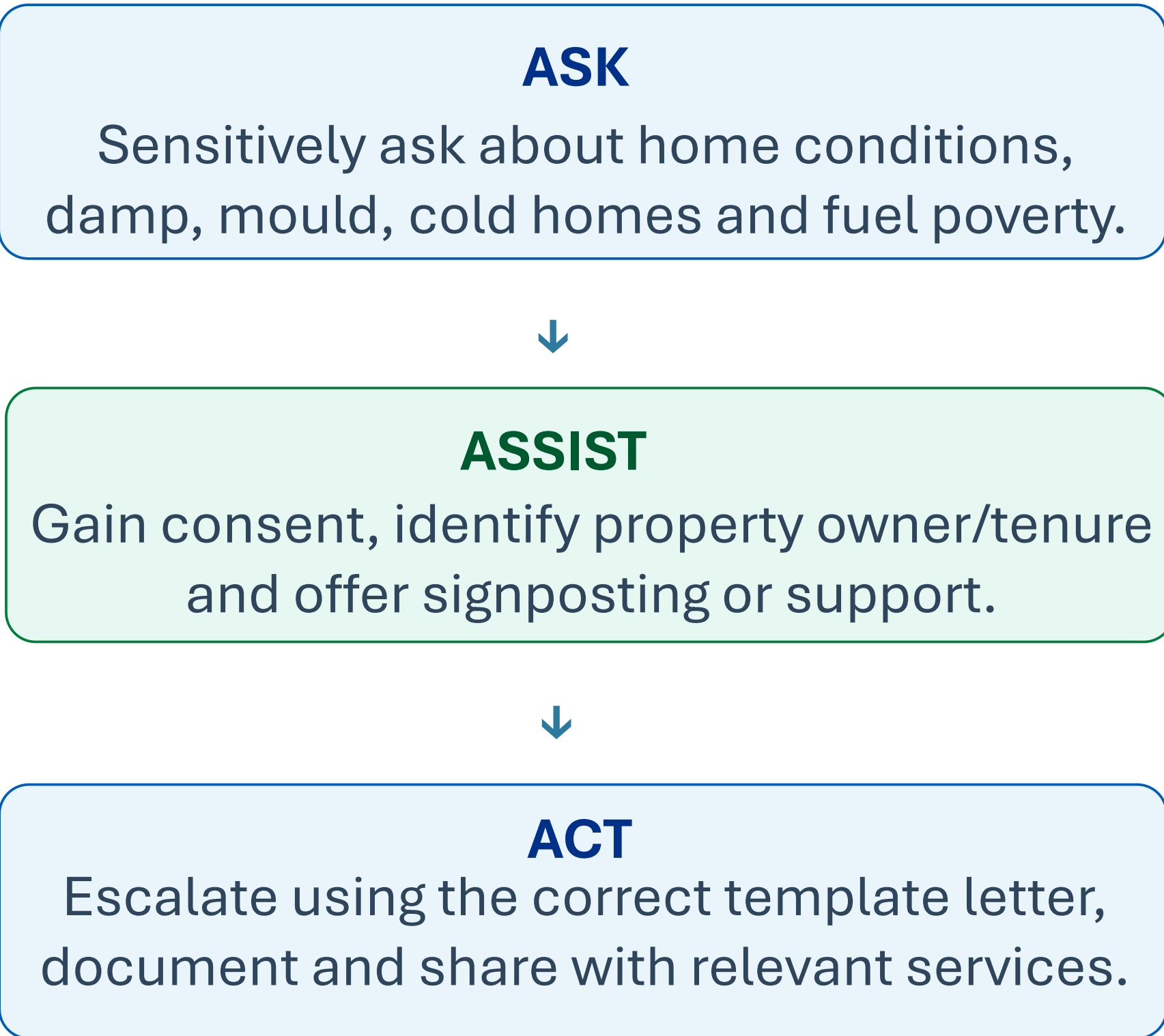
Practical Housing Toolkit for respiratory care

Toolkit components



Includes tailored letters for council/housing association, local authority private landlord team and private landlord contexts.

Ask–Assist–Act pathway



Results / outputs

- Step-by-step guidance for healthcare professionals to recognise housing-related health risks.
- Standardised, proportionate template letters tailored to social and private landlord contexts.
- Signposting to social prescribing, safeguarding pathways and local authority enforcement routes.
- Information designed to be actionable, proportionate and governance compliant.

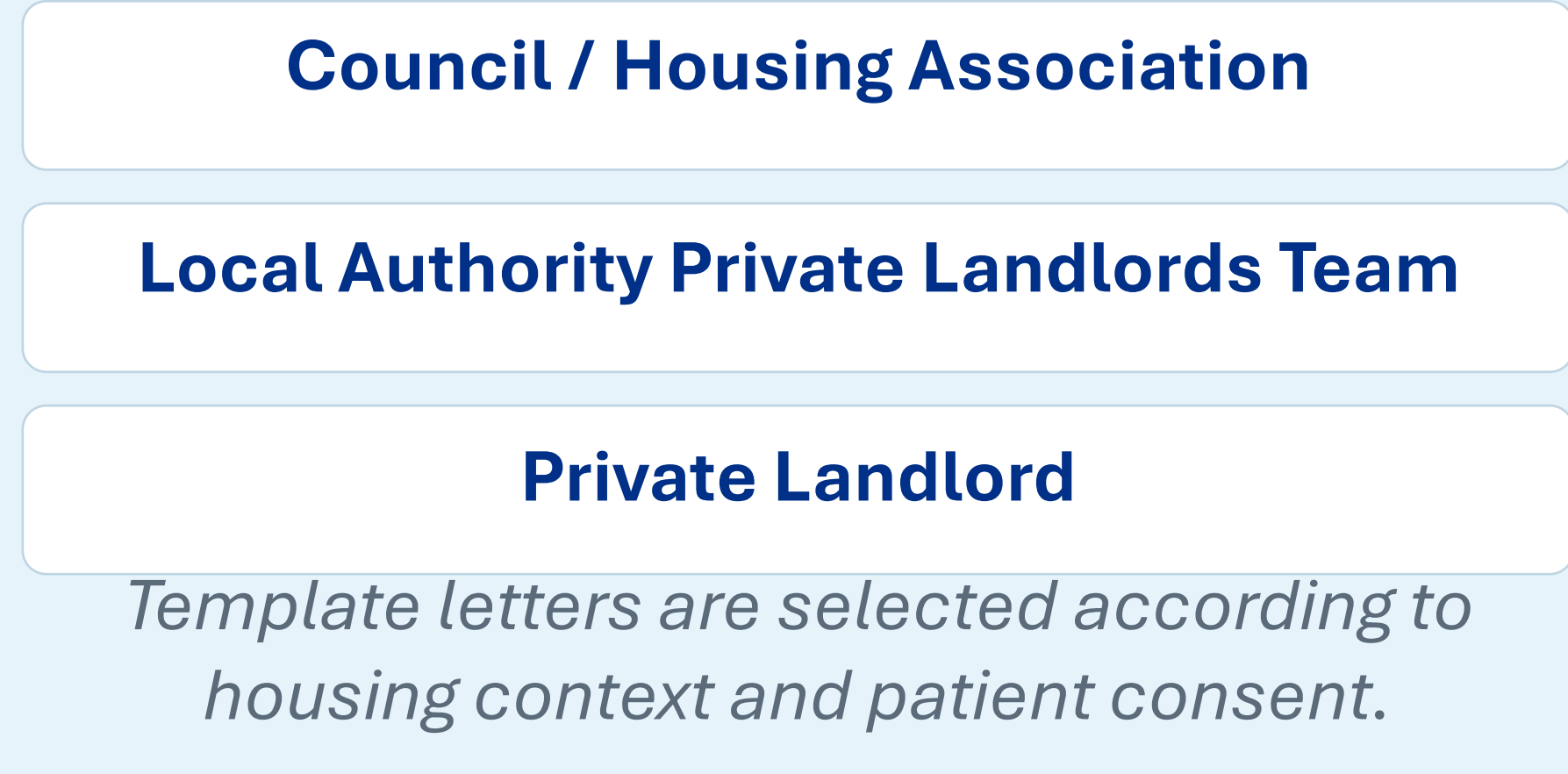
Impact from early feedback

- Improved clinician confidence
- More timely escalation
- Stronger health–housing collaboration
- More consistent response to housing risk
- National recognition and sharing

Why it is patient-centred

- Promotes holistic respiratory care by asking about the home environment.
- Supports families to navigate complex housing, safeguarding and local authority routes.
- Helps convert concerns raised by patients and families into practical, consented action.
- Recognises wider determinants of health and respiratory inequalities.

Escalation routes



National recognition & dissemination

- Positively received across healthcare, respiratory networks, safeguarding partners and housing providers.
- Presented regionally and nationally.
- Hosted by Asthma + Lung UK for national access.
- Designed for wider adoption and local adaptation.

Multiagency

Patient-centred

Primary care ready

Key take-home message

Ask about housing as part of holistic respiratory care.

Assist with consent, support and signposting.

Act using the right template letter and escalation route.

The toolkit turns an important but complex conversation into practical clinician action.

Access the toolkit

Free national resource for clinicians



Scan to access the Housing Toolkit and downloadable resources hosted by Asthma + Lung UK

www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/healthcare-professionals/supporting-patients-indoor-pollution

Declarations

- Conflict of Interest: None.
- Funding: None.

References

1. Wimalasena NN, Chang-Richards A, Wang KI-K, Dirks KN. [Housing Risk Factors Associated with Respiratory Disease: A Systematic Review](#) International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.
2. The Hazards in Social Housing (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2025, SI 2025/1042. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/si/2025/1042/contents>
3. Kearsley J. *Awaab Ishak: Prevention of Future Deaths Report (Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths, Ref: 2022-0365)*. Manchester North Senior Coroner. 2022. Available at: https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Awaab-Ishak-Prevention-of-future-deaths-report-2022-0365_Published.pdf

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Poster specification: A0 portrait editable PowerPoint draft • Maximum A0 portrait format for PCRS poster display and virtual PDF export

More information is available on the East of England Respiratory Clinical Network’s [NHS Futures page](#)



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