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Introduction

This assignment report is going to provide an analysis of the community development in Southwark regarding housing issues and food insecurity in the council. And how the borough has been able to engage in digital communication to raise awareness of these issues among members of the community regarding this problem. All the strategies and new developments for increasing awareness and bringing about positive change through policy, practice, and theory promote the importance of housing for the member that needs it and to decrease food insecurity in the community.

What is a community?

A community is a collection of people who live or work in the same place. Communities may have residents who attend the same schools, shop at the same places, and engage in similar activities. They also support one another and work together to solve problems. People there might not always go to the same places if the community is larger, but they might share similar interests or convictions (Study.com, 2022).

Demographic Characteristics of Southwark.

Southwark has a population of just over 314,200, making it significantly younger than London's national average. Southwark is a multicultural borough with a wide range of cultural residents. There are more than 120 languages spoken, and 11% of homes don't speak English. The demographics of Southwark are as follows: 54% white, 25% black, 11% Asian, and 10% other. (Southwark.gov.uk, 2018)

percentage of believers, 52.54% of the population is Christian, 8.52% is Muslim, 26.74% is atheist, 8.54% is unaffiliated with a religion, 1.35% is Buddhist, 1.27% is Hindu, 0.35% is Jewish, 0.23% is Sikh, and 0.47% is other. 2022 (Vinsights.co.uk, 2022)

Housing Issue.

Southwark has nearly 143,000 homes. with 39% social housing and 61% private. Between 2010 and 2020, the borough added 14% more homes. private-sector home growth up by 24%. despite a 5% drop in local authority-owned homes. Southwark has 38,000 social housing units, the most in London (including those owned by other boroughs).

Good health is supported by decent housing, especially for those who are more vulnerable. It is well known that unhealthy housing conditions, such as crowding, dampness, indoor air pollutants, and cold, are linked to conditions like eczema, hypothermia, and heart disease. Additionally, they have been linked to an uptick in infections, respiratory conditions, and asthma. A home must be in a reasonable state of repair, not pose a category 1 hazard, have reasonably modern amenities and services, and offer a reasonable level of thermal comfort to comply with the decent home standard see figure1.



Figure1: (Architect's Journal, 2016)

The Principle of Prevention That Supports Housing Issues in Southwark Council.

Southwark Council Housing Allocation Scheme: Southwark has a high housing demand, so we need rules to help the neediest. The housing allocation scheme ensures that Southwark Council homes are offered fairly to those the Council and the law consider most in need. (Issuu.com, 2014)

Housing Advice: Southwark residents with housing issues can use Housing Advice's Housing Options Service. Their services include advice and assistance. They work with many providers to help you find council housing quickly because they know it's hard. They will help you determine your priority level based on your situation and urgency.

Southwark Council's handyperson service can assist disabled or elderly homeowners with home repairs. A friendly and professional team that repairs and adapts homes to help people live safely and independently. They can move furniture, hang, or take down curtains, tape down carpets and electrical leads, change lightbulbs, put up shelves, reglaze small windows, fix minor plumbing or electrical issues, bleed radiators, and fix draught excluders. (Southwark Local Offer, nd)

Stakeholder

The stakeholder will be, the Southwark Council, the Housing Association, all adults Living in the borough, the NHS Foundation Trust, the Ministry of Housing, Landlords and Tenants, Shelter-independent advice, Fairer Future and Greater London Authority (Southwark.gov.uk, 2022a)

Use of Digital Campaign

Residents of Southwark who identify as LGBT for example can get housing advice and support from Stonewall Housing. Through phone, Skype, Zoom, WhatsApp, and email, this organization, help and advice through all digital platforms (Southwark.gov.uk, 2022b)

The theory that supports Housing

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: Your total environment includes people, buildings, and geological areas outside your home, neighbourhood, and community.

Physiological Needs: housing requirements include a place for warmth and rest. This level of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is satisfied by a home's immediate environment, which includes a stocked kitchen, a bed, utilities, and health and air.

Safety Needs: A place that offers safety and security is one of the housing safety needs. This level of Maslow's theory would be met by a house with a safe environment that includes working locks and an alarm system.

Belonging and Love: A place for friends and family to gather for entertainment is essential for belonging and love needs. This theory can be met when a home's total environment includes the ability to host entertainment for friends and family see figure2. (Infogram.com, 2022)



Figure2: (Calmsage.com, 2022)

Legislation and Policy

Southwark Empty Homes Action Plan: The council has adopted this zero-tolerance policy regarding long-term vacant properties. While the council's preferred option is to work constructively with homeowners and tenants to bring properties back into use, the council is committed to providing disincentives for properties to be left vacant, such as applying the maximum allowable council tax premium and taking enforcement action against property owners who are extremely reluctant or unable to bring homes back into use.

(Southwark.gov.uk, 2022)

The Landlord and Tenant Act 1985: According to Section 11 of the Act, the landlord is responsible for maintaining the property's structure and exterior. This obligation extends to the installations for the supply of gas, water, and electricity, as well as heating systems, drainage systems, and sanitary appliances (PIMS, 2019).

Obstacle and Barrier

Lack of digital tools to provide efficiency: It's not simple for developers of affordable housing to close a deal. Each project generates 150 files on average, and numerous duties and information must be documented. To free up more time for developers to focus on closing more deals and, eventually, building more units, more digital tools are required (Builders Patch, 2022)

Unclear Objectives and Obligations: Chaos and frustration are caused by a lack of clarity. Any living goal will be poisoned by those feelings. A lack of defined objectives and roles can result in project delays, cost overruns, and a severely demoralised team.

Fewer Resources: This could be due to a lack of team members, money, or project tools. Time may be insufficient. Perhaps planning was inadequate. Project managers must think critically and maximise resources (human, material, and financial). The project manager may need more to finish. Moving resources from non-critical project areas may also help. (The Teamwork Team, 2016)

Recommendation

Southwark has 14,000 households on its housing waiting list and over 3,000 homeless families in temporary housing. For this, it will be better for the council to attempt to use more of the vacant homes set aside for redevelopment as short-term housing for homeless families and essential staff.

When owners are unable to make their homes inhabitable, the Council should act promptly to buy and fix the properties.

Because the current laws place restrictions on enforcement powers, the council ought to engage in advocacy work to change legislation and national policy (News Shopper, 2021)

Food Insecurity

Definition: Food insecurity is a social and economic state in which a household has limited or uncertain access to enough food. Food insecurity can last for a long time or just a short time. Several things, like employment, income, ethnicity/race, and disability, can affect it. Food insecurity is more likely when there is not enough money to buy food (Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 2020)

Based on a survey done in June 2019, about 75,000 people in Southwark aged 16 or older were food insecure. People were asked about running out of money to buy food, skipping meals, or eating less because they didn't have enough money to buy balanced meals. Parents were also asked if their children had enough food to eat. It is thought that 16,000 children ages 0 to 16 years do not have enough food to eat. It was thought that the rate was higher in Southwark than in London. for both kids and adults (Southwark.gov.uk, 2019b)

The Principle of Supports

Poverty Reduction: that is using Council Policy to Put More Money in Residents' Wallets and Future Provision of Emergency Food Aid Through the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme (SESS), Including Cash First Options for More Recipients of Food Aid Support.

Personal Resilience Food Growing: This is intended to expand opportunities for residents, especially those at higher risk of food insecurity, to grow their food by creating opportunities and training (Southwark Food Action Alliance, 2021a)

The Southwark Food Action Alliance (SFAA): This SFAA provides a forum for members, residents, and key stakeholders to collaborate on existing interventions, lay out new and innovative initiatives, and adopt a coordinated strategy for addressing food insecurity and related issues (Southwark.gov.uk, 2019)

Food Connect: Together with the Mayor of London, Albrighton Community Centre, and Southwark Council, Southwark is implementing this initiative. By ensuring that excess good food is quickly and effectively shared with the residents rather than being thrown away, retailers can reduce their food waste by using electric vans and e-bikes to help with the final mile challenge. The Camberwell Community Fridge, run by the Albrighton Community Centre, will be used to distribute the extra food. Food could potentially be shared for more than 300,000 meals each year, according to estimates (London Post, 2022)

The Stakeholder

The stakeholder will be Age UK Lewisham and Southwark, Faith and Health Network, Food cycle Peckham, Notting Hill Housing Trust, Salvation Army, Southwark Council, Southwark Group Tenant's Organisation, Southwark Foodbank, Southwark Wellbeing Hub, Guys and St Thomas Charity, Citizens Advice Bureau, and Alzheimer's Society Southwark Branch (Southwark Food Action Alliance, 2021b)

Digital Campaign

Just like the Southwark Foodbank, has been reaching out to residents through Newsletter, Twitter platform and Facebook platform that has over one thousand followers and email to make sure everyone receives the best quality service (Pecan, 2021)

Theory of Food Insecurity.

In Maslow's hierarchy of needs, safety needs refer to the desire for security and protection, so security can be in food security that we all need. When our physiological needs for food and water are met, our behaviour is governed by our safety needs. These needs stem from our innate desire for a predictable, orderly, and somewhat controllable world, see figure 2 (Bike and Motorcycle, 2022)

Legislation and Policy

Agriculture Act 2020: Section 19 of this Act says, On or before the relevant day and at least once every three years thereafter, the Secretary of State must prepare and lay before Parliament a report analysing UK food security statistics. The data examined in a report under this section may include along with other things information on the following topics. (1) availability of food globally (2) sources of food supply including the variety of sources and the public's access to food from domestic and other channels (3) consumer confidence in food and food safety (Legislation.gov.uk, 2021)

SDG 2: According to United Nations Global Compact (2015) noted SDG 2 is to achieve food security, improve nutrition, and advance sustainable agriculture to end hunger. In addition, increases in agricultural productivity would only ensure food security for everyone in the world if everyone had access to food that was not only safe but also nutritious and sufficient (United Nations Global Compact, 2015)

Obstacles and Barrier

Only 20% of food-insecure people are likely to use food banks. This is brought on by stigma, a lack of knowledge about the resources available, or barriers like communication in the referral process that may prevent access (Southwark Public Health, 2019)

Recommendation

The Council should provide information on how to access community food provision and Campaign to raise awareness among new food businesses of the need to register with food banks.

Southwark Council should collaborate with Partner organizations to host events and convene senior policy leaders to expand the reach of our data and notify proactive policy solutions to food shortages.

It will be good for Southwark Council to authorised new primary investigations on additional issues, such as the personal experiences of those who suffer from food insecurity in their homes, the hidden costs of food, or the practical trade-offs that consumers make between sustainability and health (Food Standards Agency, 2022)

Conclusion

The report demonstrates Southwark Council's efforts to address the housing issues in the Borough, but there is still much to be done given the thousands of residents who remain on waiting lists and in temporary housing. They should work to find a long-term solution to the issue as well as food insecurity in the Council and should run a campaign to inform new food businesses that they must register with food banks and provide information on how to access community food provision.

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