

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

**(ORDINARY MEETING)**

**28 JANUARY 2020**

**RESPONSE TO LATE QUESTION**

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Given 10,000 Southwark assessments of medically vulnerable people done by NowMedical might be wrong, what is the council doing to recheck the rejected ones, and when will this be complete by?

**RESPONSE**

The council has no reason to believe any of the reports were incorrect. Last year the council commissioned 2,570 medical assessments, none of which were challenged by applicants, either because of the content of the report or NowMedical's conduct.

NowMedical use their expertise to make a recommendation to the local authority about the impact a disability or medical condition might have on housing needs. The reports are always reviewed by a housing officer who will make a decision based on the recommendations. Applicants can appeal the decision within 28 days and the matter would then be referred to a senior housing officer for review. No such requests were received last year.

We are in ongoing discussions with the local NHS seeking a route forward to procure their services in making these assessments and recommendations during 2020 and beyond.

We recently launched a ground-breaking scheme in partnership with all NHS local agencies to help end rough sleeping in Southwark. We have placed a housing navigator within the three local NHS hospitals to coordinate a joint health and housing response to ensure no patient is discharged to the streets.

We will seek to build on this important work going forward and will bring a report forward by the autumn of 2020.