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Hoarding and Fire Safety

Petra Duvanna – Community Safety Policy and Projects

June 2019

Barking – January 2012

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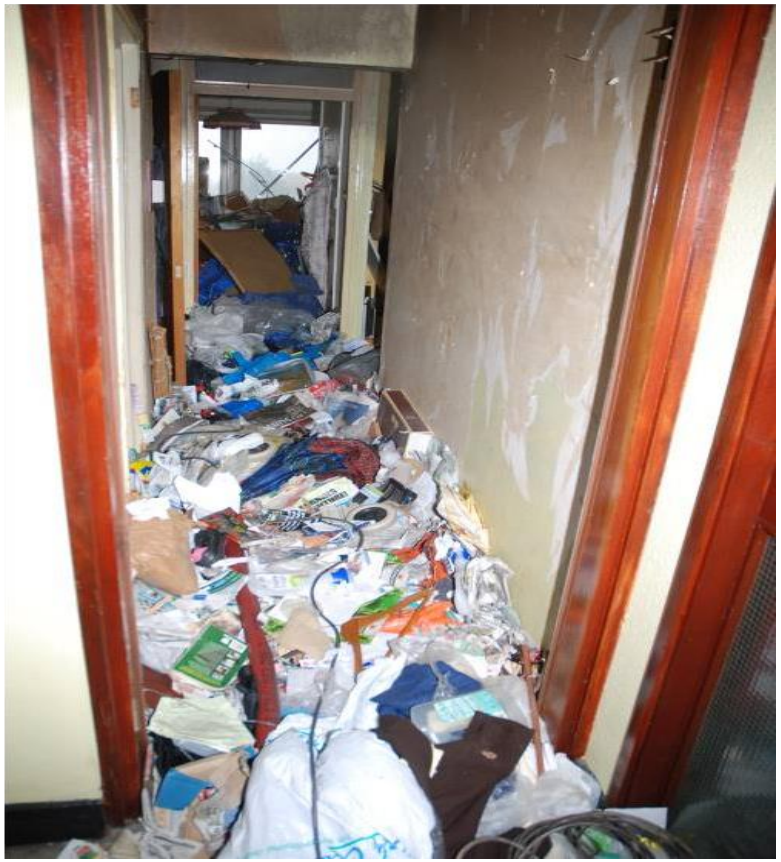
What is hoarding disorder?



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What is the scale of the issue?

Hoarding affects 2 - 5%
of the population …

… but only 5% of those with hoarding issues come to the attention of statutory agencies.

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Fire Safety - why is hoarding a problem?

- Increases likelihood and severity of fire
- Hinders escape of resident in event of fire
- Hinders access/egress of firefighters in event of fire
- Risk to neighbouring properties
- High fuel loading/ extended burning duration
- Water absorption/structural damage

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LFB - London Safety Plan (LSP5)

- **Provide familiarisation to staff on engagement with those displaying hoarding disorder.**
  - Policy – recognising and responding to hoarding
  - Effective communication techniques
  - Managing Risk via Operational Risk Database
- **Sharing best practice with borough commanders on options available.**
- **Develop partnership working to deliver effective interventions to those most vulnerable.**

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Clutter Image Rating

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The National Picture

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Keith’s Story

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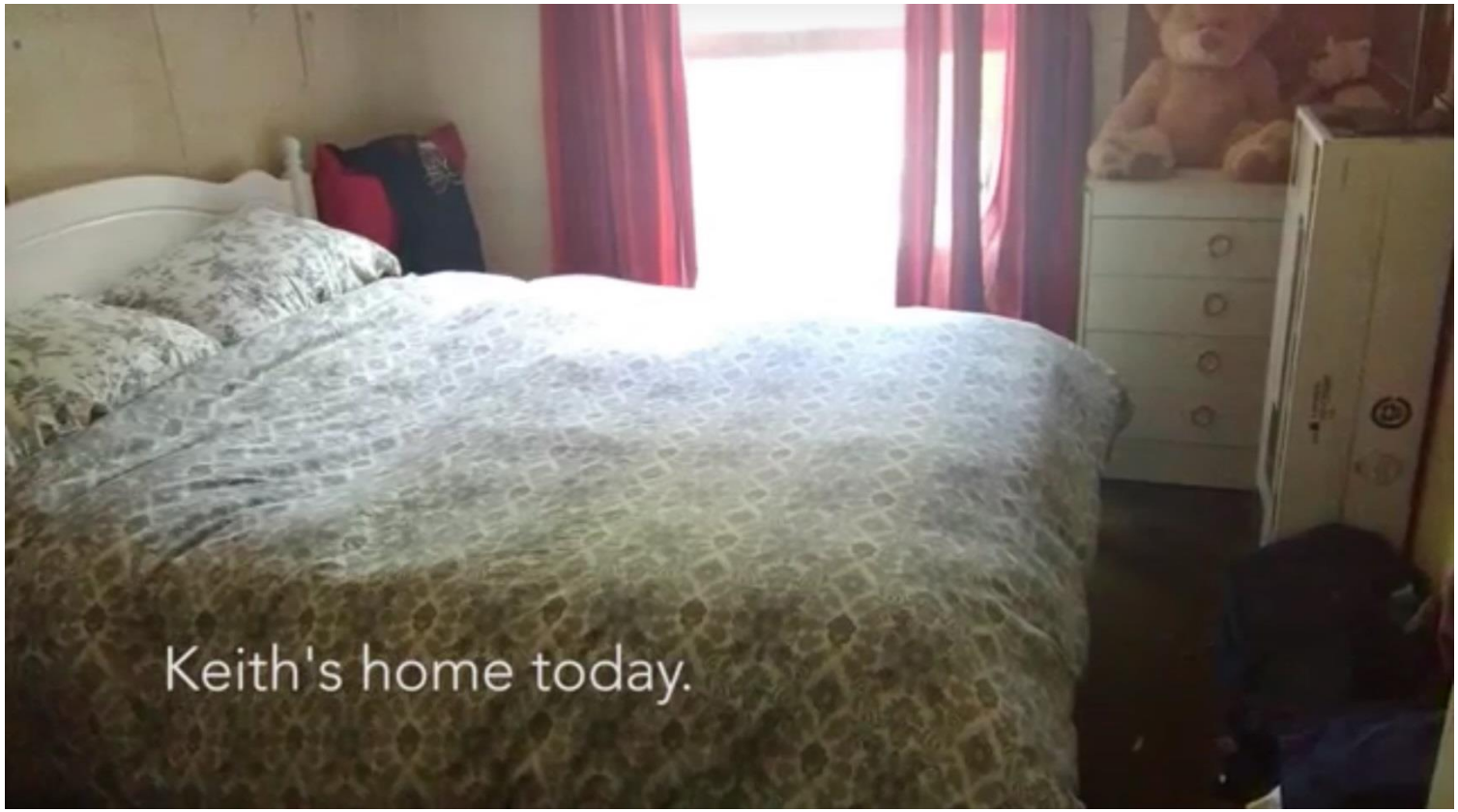
Keith’s Story



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National Fire Chiefs Council

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Options on intervention

Immediate

- Refer to local F&RS for Home Fire Safety Visit to lower risk
- Sharing information

Longer Term

- Use of tenancy agreements
- Explore using Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to influence reduction of fire risk within private dwellings in blocks of flats/sheltered housing

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Making London a Safer City

Questions?

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