

Domestic Abuse Policy

1.0 Introduction

This policy sets out how we will take steps to tackle Domestic Abuse, working in partnership with local organisations and appropriate support agencies to respond to incidents of Domestic Abuse. We will support those suffering from or threatened with domestic abuse. This policy applies to all occupants living in a One Manchester property.

2.0 Purpose

To provide guidance, advice and support to individuals suffering from Domestic Abuse and work with other agencies to take positive action against any perpetrators of Domestic Abuse.

3.0 Scope

Domestic Abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to

- Psychological;
- Physical;
- Sexual;
- Financial;
- Emotional.

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

4.0 The Policy

For the purposes of this policy we will:

- Support individuals experiencing domestic abuse irrespective of age, gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, religion, social background or other characteristics identified in the Equality Act;
- Support individuals to and make it easy to report Domestic Abuse in different ways to the appropriate agency;
- Work with our partners, where appropriate to take action against perpetrators, where we can do so without compromising the safety of the reporting individual;
- Give people experiencing domestic abuse the opportunity to opt for a staff member of the same gender to deal with their case;
- Ensure that people experiencing domestic abuse know that they can meet staff in confidence at our offices or at an agreed choice of safe venue. We will also agree the method of contact that

the individual wishes us to use to stay in contact with them and agree an appropriate plan of action following the first report that will be reviewed at a frequency agreed with them.

- Assess and reassess the position with the individual experiencing Domestic Abuse using the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour based risk identification checklist (DASH) and updating any agreed plan of action;
- Record and manage each case, including making referrals to multi agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) or other agencies for action or support, dependent on the reporter's needs as required;
- Respond to each reported incident in the appropriate and relevant way;
- Publicise and promote services to tackle Domestic Abuse and work in partnership with other agencies;
- We will provide improved security and target hardening measures in line with Sanctuary Scheme principals to a resident's home in conjunction with partner agencies, where appropriate.
- Ensure where children and young people are affected by domestic abuse, they too have access to support and appropriate services;
- Follow adult/child safeguarding procedures if we believe a child is at risk due to an abusive relationship:
- Treat any reports confidentially and when sharing information with other agencies ensure this is in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation;
- Always seek ways to resolve issues at lowest level of intervention;
- Utilise the allocations policy as appropriate to facilitate support for moving accommodation if required;
- Align services with national standards and any relevant initiatives;
- Ensure all staff dealing with domestic abuse receive specialist training;
- Co-operate as necessary with Domestic Homicide Reviews;

We expect individuals to positively engage with us and relevant services to improve their circumstances actively and ensure they take appropriate action to safeguard themselves.

5.0 Method and approach

This policy should also be read in conjunction with any procedures, service level agreements and guidance notes prepared to meet and support its aims including and the following policies;

- Allocations;
- Tenancy and Starter Tenancy;
- Equality and Diversity;
- Adult and Child Safeguarding;
- Adults at Risk of Harm;
- ASB and Hate Crime.

6.0 Responsibility

The Group Director of Place is responsible for ensuring this policy complies with legislative requirements.

Managers and staff who deal with the allocation of properties, managing cases of Domestic Abuse and those ensuring tenancies are sustained are responsible for implementing this policy.

7.0 Equality and Diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and as this policy applies to any individual no adverse impact has been identified for any group.

One Manchester is committed to ensuring no person or group of persons will be treated less favourably than another person or group of persons and will carry out our duty with positive regard to the characteristics within legislation.

8.0 Monitoring, review and evaluation

In monitoring this policy we will:

Update this policy as required with changes in legislation or working practices and a full review will be completed every three years;

Carry our regular case management reviews to ensure cases are being managed appropriately.

9.0 Legislation

This policy has been written in accordance with relevant guidance and legislation, which includes:

- Manchester city council's community safety strategy 2018-21;
- Greater Manchester Providers Crime and Disorder Group;
- Housing Act 1988;
- Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003);
- General Data Protection Regulations 2018;
- Human Rights Act 1998;
- Equality Act 2010;
- Localism 2011;
- Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.