



DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY

Document Control							
Valid from	Valid to	Version	Status	Author	Owner	Approval	Description of Change
Jan 2007		1	Final			FHL Board	
Jan 2008		2	Final			SMT	No major changes
Dec 2009		3	Final				Reviewed – changes made
May 2013	May 2016	4	Review	Head of N'hoods	Head of N'hoods	SMT	Minor
Apr 2019	Apr 2022	5	Final	Head of N'hoods	Head of N'hoods	Co-Exec Team	Major – Rewritten Policy
July 2022	July 2025	6	Final	Director of Housing	Director of Housing	Co-Exec	Changes to Govt guidance
Distribution:							
Other Relevant Documents:				Other Policies and Strategies that relate to this one Domestic Abuse Procedure (process map) ASB Policy Safeguarding Policy Information Sharing Protocol – MARAC Hate Crime Policy Regulatory Consumer Standards (2024) Home Choices Policy			
Comments:				The policy review reflects the changes in Govt (DLUHC) guidance for social landlords responsibility.			
Please indicate that the following issues have been considered during the production/review of this policy				New legislation, regulation and best practice has been considered			Y
				Equity, diversity and inclusion			Y
				Health, safety and welfare			Y
				Data protection			Y
				Risk management			Y
				Sustainability			Y
				Value for money			Y

Contents	Page
1. Purpose of the Policy	3
2. Background & Definition	3
3. Futures Commitment	4
4. Monitoring	5
5. Equality and Diversity	5
6. Review of Policy	6

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This policy outlines the approach Futures Housing Group (FHG/We) will take to ensure our customers are safe in their own home. The policy will support the terms and conditions of the existing and any future Tenancy Agreement across FHG and align itself operationally with the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) partnership.

Additionally, more strategically, FHG are active members of the domestic abuse and target hardening local partnership boards, ensuring a consistent approach is taken by partners internally and externally.

- 1.2 FHG recognises that domestic abuse cannot be ignored, the scale of domestic abuse is significant, and it is crucial that we proactively support those who are experiencing or threatened with abuse and living in our homes and communities either as a tenant or a member of the household.

FHG has committed to tackling Domestic Abuse head on by signing up to the Chartered Institute of Housing's 'Make a Stand' pledge, formed in partnership with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) and Women's Aid.

- 1.3 As a housing association we are well placed to recognise the signs of abuse and will ensure all reports are taken seriously, seeking to work with all partners to provide adequate support.

Adequate support includes seeking to assist those perpetrators of domestic abuse who wish to change their behaviour by helping them access targeted support.

2.0 BACKGROUND & DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 The Department for levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) updated two pieces of guidance in relation to supporting victims of domestic abuse.

Changes in January 2022 introduced Section 79 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, placing new obligations on social landlords to ensure that, where they are offering a new tenancy, these are on a lifetime basis.

Additionally, statutory guidance on allocations for local authorities and housing associations can improve information sharing practices where

there may be domestic abuse and/or safeguarding concerns, but not limited to domestic abuse.

2.2 The recent Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines domestic abuse as:

Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse”, or, A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B even though it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child), if:

- (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
- (b) the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:

- (a) physical or sexual abuse;
- (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
- (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
- (d) economic abuse;

“economic abuse” means - any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to:

- (1) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
- (2) obtain goods or services.

- (e) psychological, emotional, or other abuse; and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

3.0 COMMITMENT

- 3.1 At FHG we have committed to making a stand against any form of domestic abuse taking place within our homes, communities and the workplace in addition to protecting our people from experiencing domestic abuse at home.

We will treat every reported case with respect, fairly and in a non-judgmental way and we will ensure everyone has access to the information they need.

3.2 This policy aims to:

- Ensure everyone experiencing domestic abuse can access services appropriate to their needs as early as possible and ensure they are provided with the advice they need to enable them to make informed decisions.
- Provide structured support to those experiencing domestic abuse in a way which meets their needs, via partner organisations and ensuring they are protected as much as possible.
- Ensure that any children who may be also be affected have access to services outside of the home.
- Ensure those experiencing domestic abuse are not deterred from reporting incidents, providing safe and secure avenues to information and accessing services.
- Ensure safe access to 'by and for' services is available locally to victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
- Create a safe environment for those experiencing abuse, support them to move home and live independently at the right time, empower victims to fulfil their ambitions.
- Ensure perpetrators of domestic abuse who recognise they need help and support to change their behaviour have access to services to help them achieve this.
- Ensure perpetrators of domestic abuse are held to account for their behaviour, working with partners to seek the most appropriate action required, including eviction, injunctive relief or other remedies.

4.0 MONITORING

4.1 The Neighbourhoods Team will be responsible for monitoring cases where domestic abuse has been reported and/or identified.

4.2 Cases will be reviewed on an individual basis monthly and reported as part of the wider safeguarding reporting to Insight Committee.

4.2 All known cases will be tracked if they form part of MARAC/Safeguarding; other lower level cases will be shared with partners and monitored, escalated accordingly.

4.3 Information sharing of local statistics will be made available to strategic partners in the interests of identifying trends and outcomes, to help form wider domestic abuse and target hardening strategies.

5.0 EQUITY & DIVERSITY

5.1 In the context of dealing with domestic abuse cases, it is known that varying types of abuse may impact differently on individuals depending

on their background.

FHG is committed to challenging abuse and will aim to:

- Meet the needs and choices of people from all backgrounds and take into consideration religion or belief, race, gender and gender reassignment, age, disability, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnerships, pregnancy or maternity.
- Ensure services are responsive and meet the needs of our existing and prospective customers and those living within our communities or working within our organisation.
- Understand the cultural implications and any barriers to reporting domestic abuse.
- Ensure access to services is equally available to all those living within our communities.

6.0 REVIEW OF POLICY

6.1 We will undertake regular reviews of this policy and our procedures relating to Domestic Abuse to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our customers.

A full review of this policy will be carried out at 3 yearly intervals unless there are changes in legislation/guidance that may require an earlier review.