

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY

**Lead Officer- Jane Dunn
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Domestic Violence Policy

Headrow Limited believes that it is a fundamental right of people to live without fear of domestic violence or harassment. Headrow Limited will strive to create a safe supportive environment, which is aimed at encouraging people to report domestic violence. Domestic violence can affect all sections of society, and continues to be an increasing problem. Headrow will provide a non-judgemental and sensitive approach to customers unfortunate enough to experience this problem. Headrow also recognises that they must work with other agencies e.g. Homelessness section, where appropriate or assist by way of support or referral to other support groups to provide assistance for our customers to sustain their tenancy. It is also recognised that not all victims will wish to move, and where this is the case we will seek assistance from schemes such as Sanctuary, a scheme which provides additional security measures which enables residents to remain in their home. We will offer a victim centred approach, which will allow our customers to report incidents in confidence, and free from fear.

Domestic violence can be physical, emotional and/or psychological (which can include economic abuse) perpetuated by a partner or former partner/carer or member of the household. We have used the 1996 Housing Act for our definition. Therefore domestic violence can be defined as:

“Violence or threats of violence from a person who is associated with the person under threat.”

Domestic Violence can be found in all types of relationships. Although the perpetrators of domestic violence are more commonly men, domestic violence can occur in any relationship, and does not preclude violence against men by women. We must always be mindful of cultural, religious and vulnerable groups. Through our Allocations and Transfer Policy We will constantly monitor our Allocations and Transfer Policy and Procedures to make sure that the above are non-judgemental.

Support and advice will always be given to staff by their Line Manager on policy and procedure in cases of Domestic Violence.

