

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 6 February 2024

Report Title	Domestic Abuse Policy			
Purpose of Report	To recommend the Domestic Abuse Policy to Housing Committee to ensure support and a sensitive approach to housing solutions for victims of domestic abuse.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: a) adopt the Domestic Abuse Policy; b) agree to the policy.			
Consultation and Feedback	Consultation with Tenant Voice Representatives Members			
Report Author	Michelle Elliott – Housing Manager Email: michelle.elliott@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	None.			
Background Papers	None.			
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Domestic Abuse Policy Appendix 2 – Domestic Abuse Policy EIA			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The policy sets out details of Stroud District Council's response to addressing domestic abuse. The policy is in line with the Gloucestershire domestic abuse strategy. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a statutory duty on first tier councils to prepare a Domestic Abuse Strategy. Gloucestershire County Council has prepared a Domestic Abuse Strategy, and the District Council plays an important part in the delivery of this Countywide Domestic Abuse Strategy working in a multi agency partnership. The policy applies equally to all victims of domestic abuse and outlines how we would act against perpetrators.
- 1.2 The aim of the policy is to outline how the Council will support victims of domestic abuse collaborating within a multi-agency partnership approach.
- 1.3 All reports of domestic abuse will be treated as high priority and staff will signpost victims to the appropriate support agencies.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The main aim of the policy is to ensure that victims of domestic abuse are listened to, supported by staff, and given the correct advice to make informal choices regarding their accommodation. This includes remaining in their current accommodation with the offer of additional security measures.

- 2.2 The main domestic abuse service provision for the county is provided by Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS). The service is designed to meet the needs of all victims of domestic abuse in Gloucestershire and is managed by Green Square Accord.
- 2.3 The Council also work in partnership with Green Square Accord by providing accommodation for their Places of Safety Project.
- 2.4 We will work with partnership agencies to consider legal action available to deal with the perpetrators of domestic abuse but where appropriate to do so will signpost perpetrators for support.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The aim of the policy to provide a sensitive and supportive response to victims of domestic abuse, by implementing an early intervention approach to support victims in the manner of their choice and to work collaboratively with partners to establish a range of housing options.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Any expenditure arising will be met through established budgets.

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4.2 Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

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4.3 Equality Implications

An EIA has been carried out by Officers in relation to the decision made in this report and no equality implications arise.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.