

These agencies are Bromsgrove District Council, West Mercia Police, Stonham, Social Services, the Community Safety Partnership, Housing Associations and any other relevant organisation.

For more information and advice contact:

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SANCTUARY



a guide for victims of violence

This leaflet can be provided in large print, braille, CD, audio tape and computer disc.

If you require
interpretation and translation
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SANCTUARY



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BROMSGROVE 'SANCTUARY SCHEME'

The "Sanctuary Scheme" is a victim centred initiative which aims to make it possible for victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes and feel safe.

Many victims of domestic abuse and hate crimes feel that they need to move on numerous occasions as they are in fear of repeat incidents. This results in the disruption of having to move away from their support network of friends and family and uprooting children from their schools.

This scheme has been introduced to try to prevent this from happening, it is not confined to Housing Association tenants and there is no charge.

The project is not an immediate response to a situation although applications are dealt with as quickly as possible providing a long term solution to improve the victim's quality of life.



WHAT IS A 'SANCTUARY'?

Every "Sanctuary Scheme" is designed to meet the needs and circumstances of the individual involved. The security measures generally fall into three categories;

Sanctuary – this is where a door to the main room, generally the master bedroom, is replaced with a solid core door and reversed to open outwards. Two mortice bolts are fitted to the inside of the door, one at the top and the other at the bottom, along with three large steel hinges, hinge bolts and 180 degree viewer. This provides a safe room or "Sanctuary" for victims to call for and await the arrival of the police. The police will often provide an alarm which when activated, goes straight through to the police letting them know there is a problem and activating a fast response.

Sanctuary Plus – this would normally have all of the above elements plus additional security features, i.e. grilles, extra "Sanctuary" doors to the front and rear of the property.

Sanctuary Minus – this does not include a safe room, but could include a number of other security options, i.e. changing window locks and door locks etc.

In some cases, victims are also provided with fire safety equipment. This includes smoke detectors, break glass hammers and collapsible fire escape ladders.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A 'SANCTUARY'?

Under section 177 of the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, a Local Authority has the responsibility to assess whether it is reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation.

The act states that it is not reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation if it is probable that this will lead to domestic violence, or other violence against them or against:

- a) A person who normally resides with them as a member of their family
- OR
- b) Any person who might reasonably be expected to reside with them.

If you fall into this category, you may be eligible for a "Sanctuary".

The "Sanctuary Scheme" is not limited to Housing Association tenants and includes any person, who is threatened with homelessness due to domestic violence.

Referrals to the "Sanctuary Scheme" can be made by any agency some of which are listed overleaf and they are then assessed by a Multi Agency Panel consisting of members of these agencies.