

# Housing Options

As a victim of Domestic Abuse, one of the biggest decisions for you to make is whether to leave.

If you decide to leave then you will need to consider where you/ your family will live.

If you do not have anywhere to stay or are in any doubt about your housing options then you should seek housing advice.

## Homelessness

If you need to leave your home due to domestic abuse you can contact the Homelessness and Housing advice officers at Rochford District Council. The Council have trained officers who will give you advice and an opportunity to talk through the options available to you.

The options may vary from making a homelessness application, applying to go on the

housing register, a woman's refuge or looking into applying for private accommodation.

It is always best to contact the team at the earliest opportunity in order to allow plenty of time to look at your options and allow time to prepare for any changes.

Appointments can be made by contacting the Homelessness and Housing Advice Team on 01702 318158.

## Council Tenancy

Any person can apply for re-housing to the councils Housing Register, regardless of their current circumstances.

If you are already a council tenant and going through a relationship breakdown you can approach your local housing office to discuss your options.

If you are experiencing Domestic Abuse we have a specialist officer who will take the time to discuss your needs and explain the options that are available.

The advice offered will be determined by your personal circumstances, family composition, tenure and rent history. The options available to you may vary from taking action against the perpetrator to transferring you to alternative council housing possibly in another authority.

### **Women's Refuge**

A refuge is a temporary safe haven for women and children fleeing domestic abuse, they are run by women and provide a wide range of practical advice and support for both women and children.

Refuge addresses and telephone numbers are kept confidential. The aim is for you and other residents to feel safe. Remember that if there are spaces available you don't have to feel pressured to stay in your area.

For details of women's refuges in and around your area contact the S.H.E helpline on 01702 300006.

### **Friends and family**

Another option available is for you to stay with friends and family, but only if you consider that you and your family are not in any danger, as the perpetrator may know where you are.

This may be a useful option for the short term while you look at other options.

**Whatever housing option you are considering it is always worthwhile to talk to a housing adviser. They will be able to help you find the best option.**

If you would like this information in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 546366 Ext 3517



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Domestic Abuse Reduction Officer,  
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