

The Whole Housing Approach – A Pioneering Framework

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance



Plan for this session

- Explore Policy and Key Legislation
- The WHA Mission
- Evidence Based Framework

PLAN



Domestic Abuse is a Housing issue



Home is where perpetrators are most likely to cause harm and kill (67% of female victims of domestic homicide were killed in their own homes (ONS) 2021)



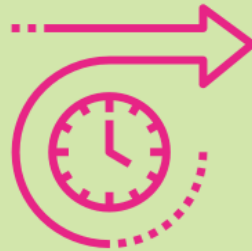
Perpetrators use housing as a form of economic abuse and coercive control.



Domestic abuse is a leading cause of homelessness amongst women.



Emphasis is put on victim/survivors needing to leave to become safe.



Long-term housing and economic insecurity.

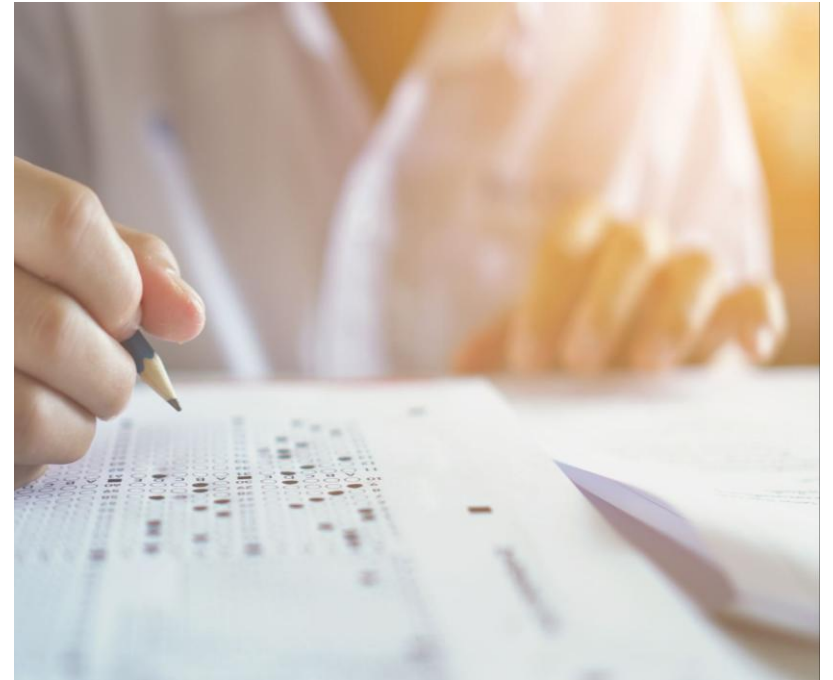
Policy & Key Legislation

➤ Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- Part 4 Safe Accommodation, Part 7 Priority Status

➤ Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023

- Outline requirements for an effective DA response in supported housing settings



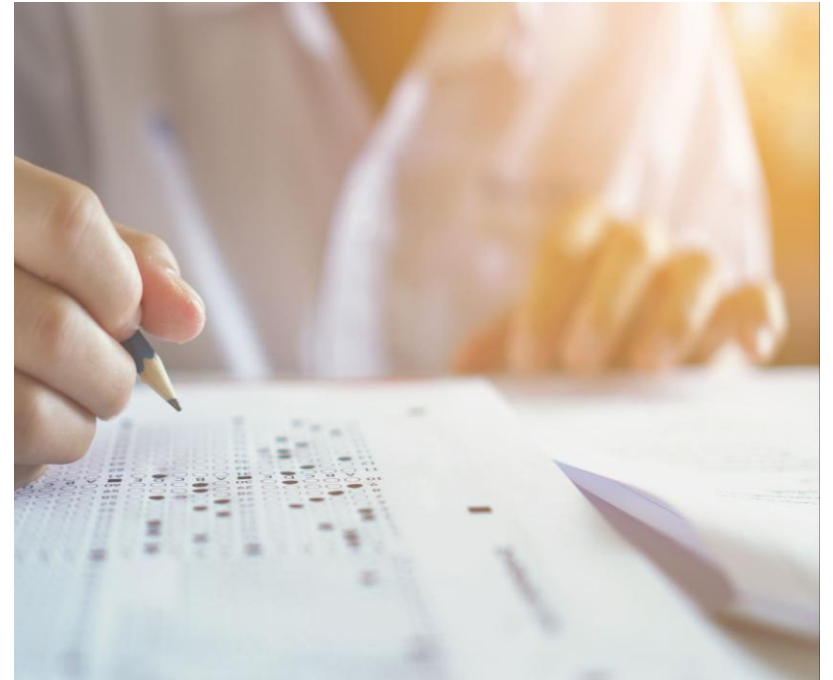
Policy & Key Legislation

➤ **Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023**

- Consumer Standards Regulation – domestic abuse in Standards & accompanying Code of Conduct

➤ **Social Housing Bill 2026 (currently progressing through Parliament)**

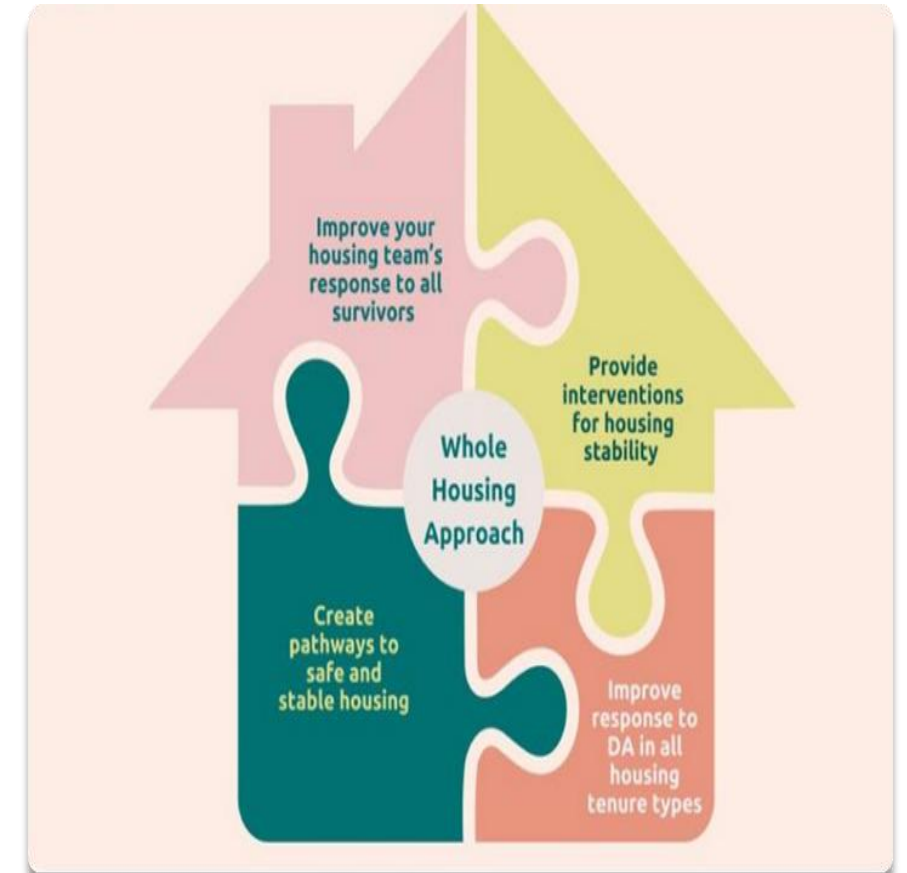
- New protections for domestic abuse survivors in social housing

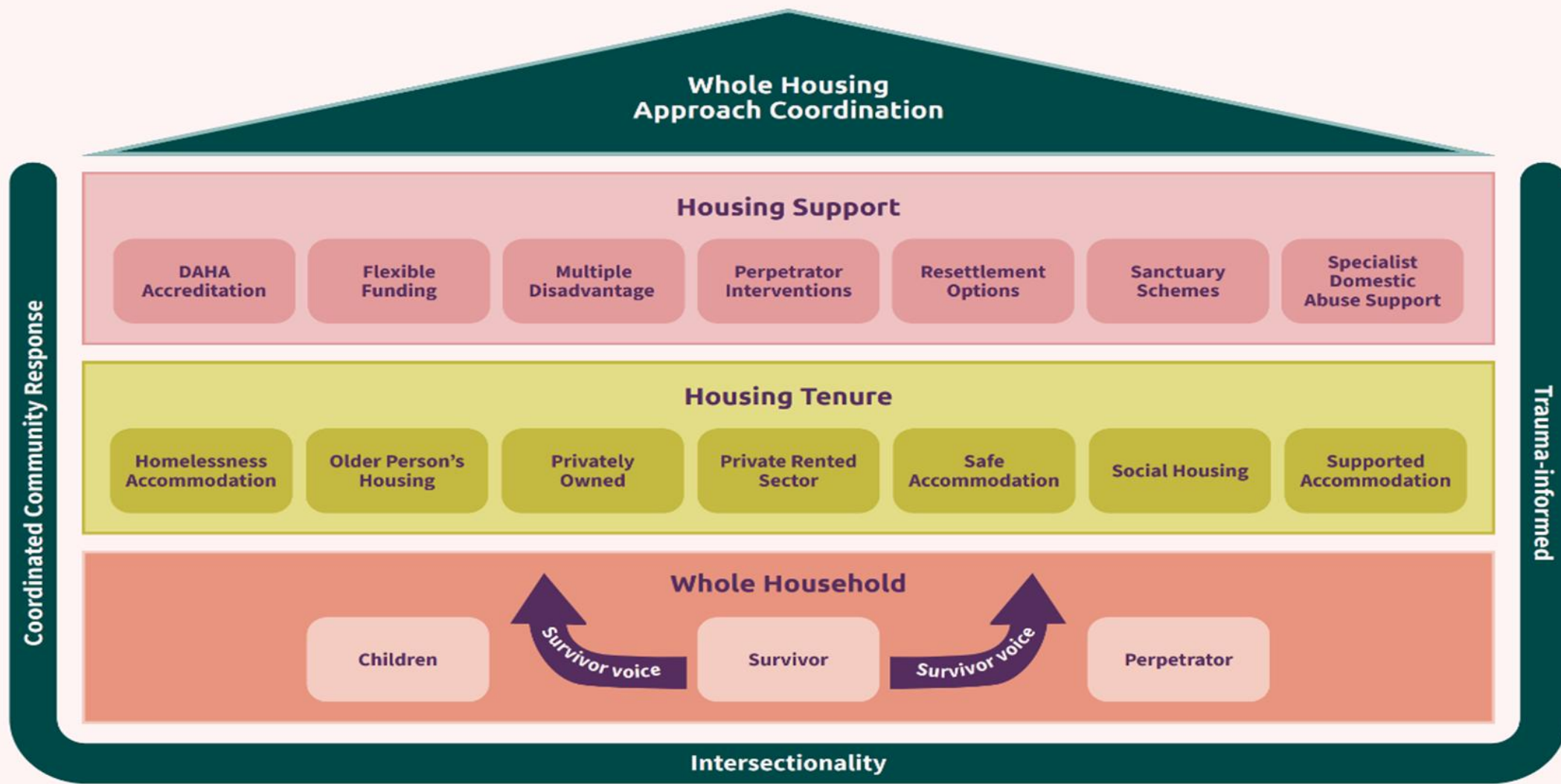


Whole Housing Approach

Mission:

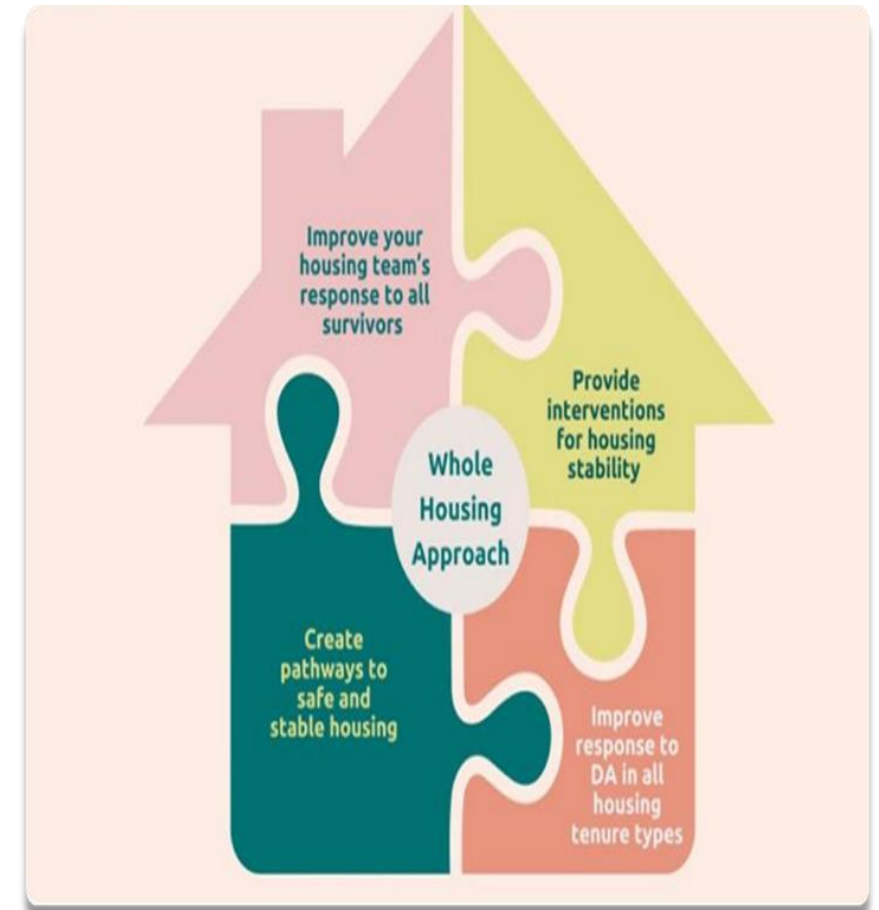
- Improve access to safe and stable housing across all housing tenure types
- Ensure access to a range of housing options and initiatives tailored for domestic abuse
- Create earlier identification and intervention for domestic abuse through mobilising social and private landlords and key institutions involved in private ownership





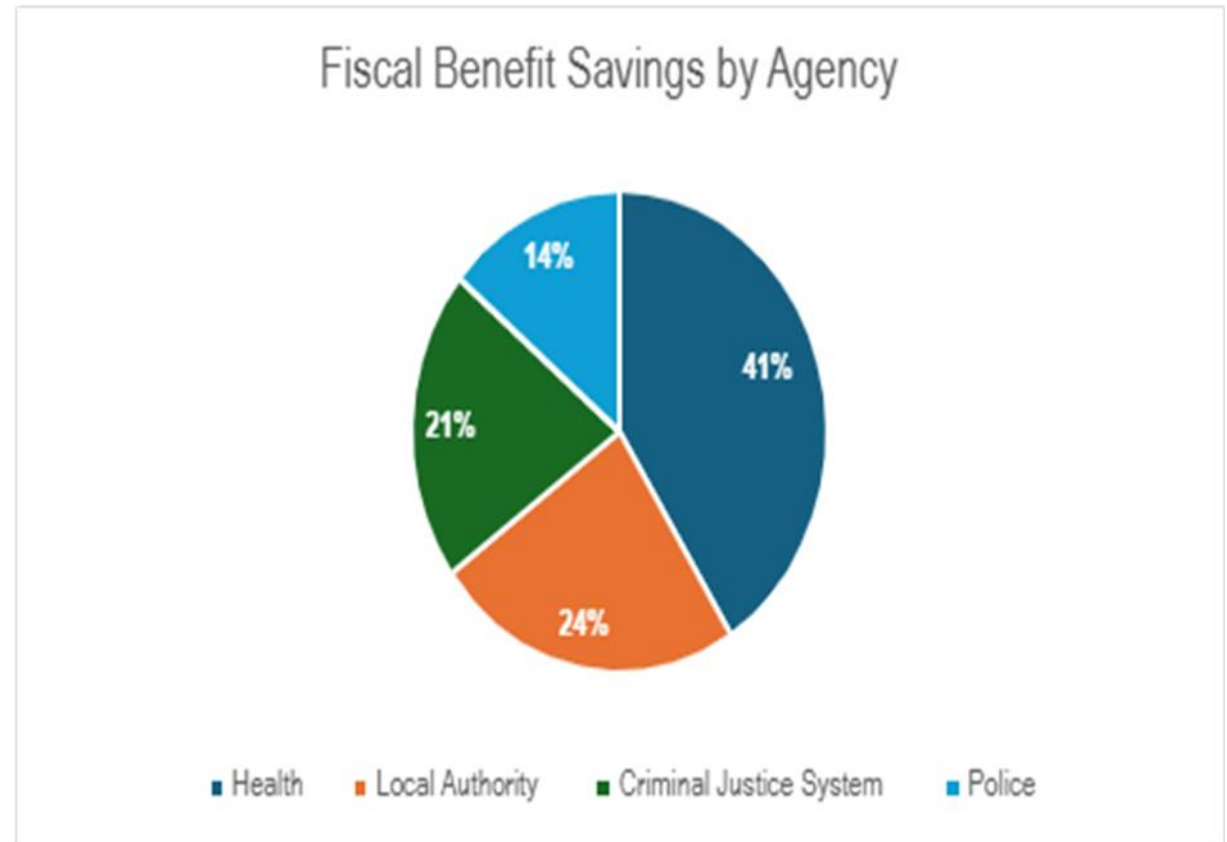
The Whole Housing Approach Pilot

- A shift from short-term thinking ('refuge only') to considering a wider range of accommodation options for survivors
- Improved domestic abuse knowledge and partnership working between domestic abuse and housing teams
- Close engagement with By & For services



Cost Benefit Analysis

- “The WHA is a highly cost-effective intervention and offers exceptional social value”
- For every £1 invested an average of £10.20 in public sector savings is generated





Jane's story

Jane was living in social housing with her adult son. She had significant physical health needs, and her son was her carer. Jane was experiencing coercive control, physical abuse, and financial abuse from her son. Due to her health problems, the home was unsuitable for Jane's accessibility needs.

Jane's son had recently assaulted her, resulting in physical injuries. Jane's social worker made a MARAC referral based on professional judgement.

As a result of this, Jane was referred to the WHA IDVA for domestic abuse and housing support.



The WHA IDVA liaised with Jane's housing provider, who allocated her a sheltered housing property. Jane felt safe here and was able to continue accessing support after she moved.

£305

Jane's son was allocated supported housing away from Jane, and is receiving support to move to independent accommodation.

Jane accessed Flexible Funding for an adapted phone to help her feel less isolated.

£792

Sanctuary measures were installed, including a lock change and fire safety assessment. A critical marker was applied to Jane's address and a Lifeline Alarm installed.

£1,136

£807

The WHA IDVA set up meetings with partner agencies to ensure that a Care Plan was in place for Jane.

Jane's son was removed from the property and bail conditions were imposed to prevent him from accessing the home.

Green path: The WHA interventions we delivered and associated costs

Red path: The likely outcomes and costs prevented or delayed

(costs calculated using the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Unit Cost Database)

Total costs

Green path: £3,040

Red path: £37,902

£27,264

Jane moves to a care home to increase her safety and to support her increased health needs.

£7,219

Jane's son makes a homeless application as a result of Jane ending her tenancy. He is housed in temporary accommodation.

£1,142

Jane's health deteriorates further, requiring additional healthcare support.

£2,277

Jane remains in an abusive situation, with ongoing hospital visits and police involvement.



Funding Streams

- Domestic Abuse Act & Homeless Prevention Funding – now in combined pot
- Regulatory Compliance Budgets - Consumer standards, governance and risk assurance
- VAWG Partnership Funding (WHA) - VAWG Strategies, joint investment through local multi-agency partnerships
- Public Health Funding – DA is widely recognised as a major public health issue



Contact & Resources

WHA

Contact: wha_team@standingtogether.org.uk

<https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/innovations-in-practice/whole-housing-approach/>

DAHA

Contact: daha_team@standingtogether.org.uk

<https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/>

Multiple Disadvantage & Homelessness

Contact: daha_homelessness@standingtogether.org.uk

Contact: hf_and_homelessnessteam@standingtogether.org.uk

<https://www.standingtogether.org.uk/mdhprogramme>

<https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/membership-accreditation/daha-homelessness-supported-accommodation-accreditation/>

