

Cheshire East

Embedding a 'Whole Housing Approach' to Domestic Abuse

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and wellbeing for all**



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Why Housing matters for victims of domestic abuse

Home is where perpetrators are most likely to cause harm or kill.

Housing can be used as a form of abuse and control.

Domestic abuse is a leading cause of homelessness for women.

DA and other forms of VAWG are experienced by most women who are rough sleeping

The emphasis needs to move away from expecting victims to 'leave' to become safe.

Cheshire East pilot



The Whole Housing Approach was developed by Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA) to improve access to safe and stable housing for all survivors of domestic abuse.

The idea is to ensure the survivor is presented with a range of housing options and tailored support, giving choice to relocate OR remain in their existing accommodation.

Brings together strategic partnerships, including Housing (Public and Private), DA services, By and For organisations and survivor voice – joint working, joint visits, shared solutions

Work with local providers to source target-hardening offers – what actually works?

What is different about this approach?

- Traditional responses rely on crisis refuges and reactive measures – often focus on moving survivors out of their home.
- Brings together all housing tenures under one coordinated response.
- Focus on prevention, choice and long-term stability.
- Focus on community integration.
- Early identification and referral.

Impact and Outcomes

- More domestic abuse was identified amongst housing clients
- More survivors and children were supported with housing
- Fewer survivors were made homeless (successful discharge of Prevention Duty)
- More survivors and children were supported to safely remain in their own homes
- More perpetrators were removed from properties, and rehoused
- Improved partnership working between domestic abuse and housing teams
- Improved professional knowledge and confidence on domestic abuse
- More survivors were offered domestic abuse support in temporary accommodation





The WHA IDVA ensured that Maryam's new landlord had sanctuary measures installed on her new property. Maryam and her daughter are now settled safely in their new home, and able to begin their recovery journey.

Flexible Funding was also used to pay for a removals service. This enabled Maryam to use a safe, discreet service who knew not to disclose her new address and allowed her to choose a date and time to move.

£280

A non-molestation order was obtained to prevent the perpetrator from contacting Maryam or entering her home.

£914

The WHA IDVA liaised with the Housing Team to ensure Maryam's application for social housing was processed quickly. She was placed high up the waiting list. During the wait, the WHA IDVA worked with the landlord to allow her to remain safely in the home.

£139

Maryam was offered a new property with a registered social landlord. The WHA IDVA applied for Flexible Funding to cover the first weeks rent in advance.

Maryam's story

Maryam was living in a private rented property with her partner and their 2-year-old daughter. Maryam's partner had been abusing her for some time, controlling her through verbal and physical abuse. She contacted the local domestic abuse front door service, who supported her to complete a DASH assessment.

Maryam was referred to MARAC and was supported by an IDVA in the Council's high risk domestic abuse team. The perpetrator was subsequently arrested. Maryam's IDVA supported her with safety planning, and the risk to her and her daughter was reduced. Maryam still had ongoing housing needs—her landlord was selling her home, and she would be served with a Section 21 eviction notice once it was sold.

At this point, Maryam was referred to the Whole Housing Approach IDVA.

Green path: The WHA interventions we delivered and associated costs

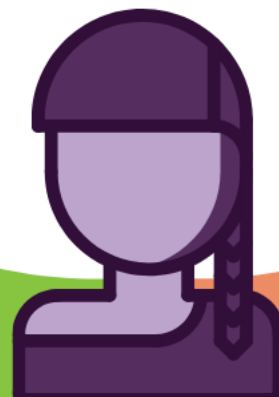
Red path: The likely outcomes and costs prevented or delayed

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

Total costs

Green path: £1,405

Red path: £7,850



£2,600*

Maryam and her daughter are housed in temporary accommodation. They remain here for 6 months.

£2,375

When long-term housing is found for Maryam, her new address is disclosed to the perpetrator during the moving process. As there is no sanctuary scheme in place, her new property remains unsecured, and the perpetrator gains entry.

£2,329

Due to being issued a Section 21 notice and because of ongoing harassment from the perpetrator, Maryam feels she can't remain in her home any longer. She approaches the Council to make a homelessness application.

£546

Maryam remains in her home without protective orders in place. The perpetrator is released from custody and attempts to enter Maryam's property. Neighbours contact the police about the disturbance.

*Based on a 6 month stay at £100 per week
The survivor's name has been changed.

Case study

- **High Risk Actions**

- Client self-referred
- At the time of referral, the client was still living with the perpetrator and their 2-year-old daughter.
- The client had a joint tenancy with the perpetrator in a private rented property.
- The client disclosed experiencing controlling and coercive behaviour, verbal abuse, attempts her partner had made to throw objects at her and her daughter and, non-fatal strangulation during sex.
- The DASH score was 14 and she was therefore referred to MARAC and the high-risk team.
- A refuge space was also arranged for her, but the client was very scared and wasn't sure that she was ready to leave.
- the landlords were selling the house they were living in and that she would be served a section 21 notice, once it was sold.
- She had registered with Cheshire Homechoice and been advised that once she received her section 21 notice, she would increase to a Band B.
- Due to MARAC, the police arrested the client's partner, and he had bail conditions not to contact her.
- The client struggled with feelings of guilt for this and was supported by the IDVA around education on domestic abuse.
- A video doorbell (via the sanctuary scheme) was also provided to the client from our service to help to increase the security of her house.
- Once safety planning was complete and risk was reduced, a step down was completed to our Whole Housing Approach IDVA to continue to support with her section 21.

Whole Housing Approach continued support

- Whole housing IDVA continued to support client around section 21 notice, liaised with the housing team and homeless department to make sure the client sent all the correct documents over and was in the correct banding.
- Supported the client around section 21 legislation and supported her to understand her rights.
- The client was still getting constant messages and harassment from her ex-partner. IDVA supported client with a non-molestation order and supported client to court as she needed support with this.
- Perpetrator came to court with a solicitor and the client was advised by her solicitor to accept an underwriting. This detailed that he could not contact her and could not return to the house until she had moved out of the property.
- The client was supported during this time with IDVA and her social worker. She had financial support from the household support fund and emotional support to navigate packing up her house and deal with child arrangements and family court proceedings.
- The client was offered a new property with social landlord, and we arranged target hardening.
- Helped with 1st weeks rent upfront, IDVA discussed rent and moving costs.
- Client and child received long term support with counselling and recovery.

Further information

Please contact

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