



# What is Safe@home?

Safe@home is a number of different agencies who have joined together to offer people who have experienced domestic abuse, the opportunity to receive advice and support.

The Service will bring together officers who have experience in the following:

- **Housing advice and options**
- **Family support/advocacy**
- **Legal advice**
- **Police advice**
- **Health advice**
- **Counselling**
- **Sanctuary Scheme**
- **Anger management programmes**

**Services provided by the Safe@home service are free**

We can also offer expertise in other areas. If you need help with some other issue and we cannot provide this, we will advise you of another agency and their contact details. We can also arrange a referral for you if you wish.

The purpose of the Safe@home service is to provide a 'one stop' approach providing advice and support to men, women and children who have been affected by domestic abuse.

The service operates on an outreach basis but you can choose to visit our offices at the Open Door Project, Queen Street, Wakefield if you prefer. We will always try and provide our service at a place that is suitable to you.

We provide services to all survivors of domestic abuse regardless of sex, age, race or nationality. If your first language isn't English we can arrange for an interpreter to be present at any sessions with you. However, if this is not possible, we will make other arrangements, to make sure that a service can still be provided.

## What services are available at the Safe@home Service?

There are many services available from Safe@home. If you need a service that we cannot provide, we will point you in the right direction.



Listed are the services available:

### Housing Advice and Options

There are officers at Safe@home whose specialist area is housing advice. They can provide information to help with any housing problems that you have.

For some people, the domestic abuse that they have experienced is so severe that they may have to leave the family home. The specialist Domestic Abuse Support Officer can advise what the best course of action is, for example, a placement in a refuge either within the Wakefield district or another part of the country. There will be trained domestic abuse officers at the refuge who will provide support whilst you and your family are rebuilding your life.

Moving to alternative accommodation should not be seen as the only option that is available to you. The abuse that you have experienced is traumatic enough without the added stress of moving home, changing your children's schools or leaving your family. We will discuss other options that are available to you as part of your Individual Support Plan.

Our main aim is to ensure that both you and your family are **SAFE**.



### Family Support/Advocacy

During this time of stress you may have a number of problems that need our professional help.

Safe@home has trained support officers, who specialise in providing support to people who have experienced domestic abuse.

They will be able to help you in a number of ways according to your own needs, such as going with you to appointments, or attending legal proceedings against the perpetrator (the person who has subjected you to domestic abuse).

You also have the opportunity to receive support from a social worker and support officer specifically for any children that live in your home. Individual support plans will be completed so that you are clear about what service will be provided. These will be reviewed regularly for you to see the progress that you are making.

### Legal Advice

Once you have made the decision to leave an abusive relationship, you may have legal issues that you need advice on.

Safe@home will provide details of local solicitors who are experienced in all areas of Family Law who can give practical advice on matters such as getting injunctions, getting a divorce and any issues that affect your children. Some of the solicitors will visit you in your own home if you wish.

The solicitors who are affiliated to the Safe@home project operate the Legal Aid Assistance Scheme and will calculate whether or not you qualify for the scheme. Even if you do not qualify, advice can be given on cheaper legal options.

### Police Advice

There will be officers from the West Yorkshire Police who can provide advice and support around pressing charges against perpetrators and other judicial matters.

The officers are trained in dealing with domestic abuse and will be sympathetic to your situation.

### Health Advice

Unfortunately, some people may receive injuries as a result of the domestic abuse they have experienced. Safe@home has trained professionals from Wakefield District Primary Care Trust, who can provide dedicated health support and advice.

If you have any injuries that are of a serious nature or causing you concern, you should either attend hospital or visit your doctor as soon as possible. They will record injuries that could be used to support your case if you decide to prosecute.

