

**Inspiring Housing  
Community Land Trust**

**Domestic Abuse  
(and Violence Against Women and Girls) Policy**



**April 2024  
V1**

**Inspiring Housing Community Land Trust  
Domestic Abuse  
(and Violence Against Women and Girls) Policy  
Date first adopted: September 2024**

**Review dates:**

<b>Date of review</b>	<b>Amendments/Updates made</b>	<b>Reviewed &amp; accepted</b>	<b>Proposed next review</b>
September 2026			

**Policy Statement**

Inspiring Housing CLT does not tolerate domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

This policy outlines our victim centred approach, which ensures that we create a culture when residents who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse feel supported when making a report.

We recognise the importance of supporting residents whilst also ensuring that any action we take is done with their consent.

We will work collaboratively with external partners when managing cases of domestic abuse.

This policy applies to all residents, all staff, board members and contractors, sub-contractors and agents working for IHCLT.

**Legislation and regulation**

The legislation listed in this policy is not intended to cover all legislation applicable to this policy.

The legislation listed within this policy was considered at the time of the development of this policy, but subsequent primary and secondary legislation, case law and regulatory or other requirements will be considered and the policy reviewed and adopted in accordance with the requirements set out therein, even should such subsequent legislation not be explicitly listed within this policy.

**The main legislation is as follows:**

- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Family Law Act 1996
- Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- Human Rights Act 1998 • Data Protection Act 2018
- The Housing Act 1996 •
- The Equality Act 2010

## Inspiring Housing CLT aims to:

- Work collaboratively with women and children with lived experience of domestic abuse to ensure their voices are heard and shape our housing policies and services
- Work collaboratively with key partners and wider stakeholders to identify ways in which we can take earlier, effective intervention and improve our responses and service offering to tackling domestic abuse
- Develop an improved understanding of domestic abuse amongst housing staff to ensure effective, high quality housing support, advice and information
- Provide a policy framework which sets out clear messaging promoting equality and respect, and rejects all forms of domestic abuse.
- Support wellbeing amongst our housing workforce to ensure a supportive and trauma responsive environment to effectively address domestic abuse across all sectors of society
- To prevent and reduce adverse childhood experiences and provide safe and nurturing accommodation and support that can help children and families thrive
- Challenge gendered stereotypes across all aspects of our service delivery

## How can Inspiring Housing CLT help?

Housing Services are at the forefront of delivering services to women and children affected by domestic abuse. This includes sustaining current accommodation, where possible and where this is the preference, preventing the need to present as homeless. This avoids any potential distress and trauma associated with moving into temporary accommodation or moving to an unfamiliar area away from existing support networks. We also know that for some women, the trauma experienced in their accommodation may mean that it is not an option for them to remain there. In these circumstances we would find alternative suitable accommodation.

### **Housing options include, but are not limited to:**

- Supporting women to remain in their home
- Removing the perpetrator (where possible)
- Rehousing the perpetrator
- Supporting women to transfer the tenancy to their name
- Supporting women to gain legal advice and information
- Utilising management housing transfers to support women to make planned moves and avoid homelessness
- Utilising domestic abuse housing protocol priority points to achieve a move through the general or transfer waiting list and avoid homelessness

We recognise that women experiencing domestic abuse who approach the housing service asking for help may have other issues such as disability, addiction or be financially dependent on their abuser. We ensure that we treat women sympathetically and provide a trauma informed service to explore a range of housing options and supports to identify the best housing and/or support outcome. We will work in partnership with specialist services

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## Partnership working

We work with partners including the Police, Social Services support providers, and Community Mental Health Teams as well as local voluntary groups.

We work within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 that allows customers to request a multi-agency audit of their case if they believe no progress is being made to resolve their problems.

This is a criminal offence and you need to report this to the Police immediately, you must also let them know if you are concerned about your safety, or that of others.

Domestic Abuse is the use of power for one person to control another in a family or intimate relationship.

The abuse can take many forms; for example, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual. It can also include frightening or abusing you or your children – or damaging your property.

If you are faced with the immediate threat of violence: **Call 999 and ask for the police** (or ask someone to do it for you) If you're in danger and can't talk, listen to the questions and

Access to a variety of support and advice services can be found a Salford Council website

[Domestic abuse: useful contacts•Salford City Council](#)

respond by whispering, coughing or tapping the phone if you can. You may be asked to press 55 so police can help you.

Go to a safe place (not the kitchen), stay near a door and if in doubt, leave the premises.

- Women can call the National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247
- Men can call the Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0237 for further advice and assistance.

## Equality and diversity

We will apply this policy consistently and fairly and will not discriminate against anyone based on any protected characteristics, including those set out in the Equality Act 2010.

## Complaints

Any resident or other stakeholder who is dissatisfied with how we have managed their repairs is able to submit a complaint using our Complaints process.

Once our Complaints policy is complete and if they remain dissatisfied, then they can contact the Housing Ombudsman.