



Statement of Support for Individuals Experiencing Domestic Abuse

Guildford Borough Council (the Council) is committed to supporting individuals and families who are experiencing domestic abuse and recognises domestic abuse as a serious issue that can have a significant impact on safety, wellbeing, and housing security.

The Council acknowledges that domestic abuse can take many forms, including physical, emotional, psychological, financial, and controlling or coercive behaviour, and that anyone can be affected regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or background.

Our Commitment

The Council will:

- **Provide a safe and confidential response** to anyone who discloses domestic abuse, ensuring individuals are treated with dignity, respect, and without judgment.
- **Assess housing needs sensitively and proactively**, recognising domestic abuse as a potential cause of homelessness and taking appropriate action to prevent homelessness where possible.
- **Offer access to emergency and temporary accommodation** where it is not safe for an individual or their household to remain in their current home.
- **Prioritise safety and wellbeing** in all housing-related decisions, including considering the risks posed by perpetrators and the need for secure accommodation.
- **Work in partnership with specialist domestic abuse services**, safeguarding teams, health services, and other relevant agencies to provide coordinated and effective support.
- **Support individuals to understand their housing rights and options**, including advice on staying safe, legal protections, and longer-term housing solutions.
- **Ensure relevant staff are trained and informed** to recognise domestic abuse, respond appropriately to disclosures, and signpost to specialist support services.
- **Take account of the needs of children and dependants**, recognising the impact domestic abuse has on the whole household and working to safeguard those at risk.

Confidentiality and Choice

The Council will respect confidentiality at all times, sharing information only where necessary and lawful to do so. Individuals will be supported to make informed choices about their options and will not be required to take actions that place them at further risk.

Ongoing Improvement

The Council is committed to continually reviewing its approach to domestic abuse to ensure services remain accessible, effective, and responsive to the needs of residents.

Relevant Documents and Links

This statement should be read alongside the following documents:

- The Council's [Safeguarding Policy](#)
- The Council's [Domestic Abuse Process Map](#)
- The Council's webpage on [Domestic Abuse](#)
- [Surrey Against Domestic Abuse Strategy](#)

Useful links:

- Surrey MARAC referral form - [Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences \(MARAC\) Referral - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)
- Further information on Domestic Abuse Services in Surrey - [Surrey Against Domestic Abuse | Healthy Surrey](#)
- Domestic Abuse Training Offer - [Domestic Abuse Training | Healthy Surrey](#)