

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Leona Mantle Tenancy Services Manager	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	ALL	28 th January 2020	
Title	DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Committee of a new policy on responding to Domestic Abuse within Kettering Borough Council Tenancies.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 Kettering Borough Council have signed up to the Chartered Institute of Housing's 'Make a Stand' campaign, aimed at raising awareness and responding appropriately to victims of domestic abuse. We have pledged to publish our policy on dealing with domestic abuse within our tenancies.
- 2.2 The Domestic Abuse Policy can be seen in full as an appendix (**Appendix A**) to this report; the main aims being:
- To provide an appropriate and effective response to victims
 - To enable staff to confidently support victims by taking a victim-centred approach
 - To take effective action against perpetrators using legal remedies where appropriate
 - To work closely with partner agencies to source effective solutions
 - To raise awareness of domestic abuse.
- 2.3 The policy formalises existing processes and working methods already embedded within housing services.
- 2.4. The Executive Committee has also, at its meeting In October 2019, adopted the countywide strategy on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, which seeks to prioritise the way in which public agencies in the county prevent, respond to and co-ordinate their activities in regard to this crime category. The strategy is attached as **Appendix B**.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 As this impacts Council Tenants, the Tenants Forum have been consulted and support the policy. Housing staff and the Sunflower Centre have also been involved in the consultation process.

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3.2 The policy impacts on all Kettering Borough Council tenants.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This policy will support all other policies within Housing where the tenant is a victim of domestic abuse.

4.2 The policy supports and complements the Countywide Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2019-2022.

5. FINANCE and HR RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no additional resourcing implications to this policy.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The policy sets out our response and ethos to dealing with domestic abuse within our tenancies and does not impact on statutory rights or responsibilities of tenants.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None as a direct result of this report

8. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to consider and approve the new Domestic Abuse Policy for recommendation to the Executive Committee.

Background Papers:

Previous Reports/Minutes: