

Homeless prevention

Housing options for people suffering domestic abuse.

Housing authorities have a duty ([section 179](#)) to provide advisory services free of charge to people in their district. The service must be designed to meet the needs of certain groups, which include anyone suffering from domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is not just physical violence. It happens where a family member, partner or ex-partner (including same-sex partner) controls you through things like bullying, verbal abuse, sexual violence, not letting you have any money, or keeping you isolated by stopping you seeing your friends or family.

Remaining in your home

Get an injunction - there are two types of injunction one is - A non-molestation order is aimed at preventing your partner or ex-partner from using or threatening violence against you or your child, or intimidating, harassing or pestering you, in order to ensure the health, safety and well-being of yourself and your children. They can be arrested if they break the terms.

Consider an occupation order – An occupation order regulates who can live in the family home, and can also restrict your abuser from entering the surrounding area. If you do not feel safe continuing to live with your partner, or if you have left home because of violence, but want to return and exclude your abuser, you may want to apply for an occupation order.

Ask for a transfer or exchange - If you are a tenant of a housing association you can apply for a transfer or mutual exchange. Ask your landlord or Homechoice staff how to register for any schemes they offer. You should ask anyone moving into your home not to disclose where you have gone.

Get the home in your name - In some situations the courts will transfer the home into your name, even if your partner is currently the sole owner or tenant. This is more likely to be agreed if you have children. A family law solicitor can advise you on this.

Apply as homeless

If you can't remain in your home because you are at risk of domestic abuse, you can apply as homeless to any local council. If the council must find you somewhere else to live, it will be in temporary accommodation. You might not get anywhere permanent for a long time. Even if the

council does not have to house you, it must assess your needs and help you to find somewhere suitable to live.

Emergency accommodation and refuge

If you are a woman experiencing domestic abuse and you want a place in a refuge, call the NDV Helpline. A refuge is an emergency safe house for women and children, where you can get support until something longer term can be sorted out. You will probably be offered a place in a refuge immediately, but the refuge is likely to be away from your local area. There are a small number of refuge places for men - call the Men's Advice Line.

Further housing support and advice

We can refer you for support from Gemini whilst we work with you to leave either in an emergency or in a structured planned way. We may be able to assist with a deposit bond and secure a private tenancy in an area we deem you to be safe.

Contact us

Phone 01934 426 330 or email Housing.advice@n-somerset.gov.uk



You can also send the team a message through your Homechoice account and receive replies.

Still need help?

North Somerset Council website: <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/community-safety-crime/domesticabuse/about-domestic-abuse/>

National Domestic Violence (NDV) 24 hour Helpline - 0808 2000 247*

Men's Advice Line - 0808 801 0327*

National lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans helpline (GALOP) - 0800 999 5428*

Gemini North Somerset - 0800 694 9999 (select option 1)



If your personal safety is threatened, you should call the police on 999.

You can also get information and advice from www.england.shelter.org.uk