### **RESILIENCE. RECOVERY. REFORM.**

Your partner beyond the crisis.



SUBSCRIBE

# INSIDEHOUSING

Login | Register

## Calls for social landlords to prioritise letting to domestic abuse survivors during pandemic

NEWS 15/05/20 BY LUCIE HEATH

Domestic abuse agencies are demanding social housing providers to prioritise survivors when allocating homes, amid reports that incidences of abuse are rising during the coronavirus lockdown.









Picture: Getty

#### Sharelines

"The severity of the calls we receive since the coronavirus outbreak is unlike anything we've seen before," said @homefinderuk #ukhousing

"Urgent planning and preparation is needed now to effectively address the current need and anticipated increase in demand for housing once lockdown lifts," said @DAHAlliance #ukhousing

Safer London, Homefinder UK and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) are leading the call to action, with support from the National Housing Federation, National Federation of ALMOs and a number of leading domestic abuse charities.

Alongside prioritising domestic abuse survivors in social housing lettings, the organisations are calling on landlords to support refuges by offering move-on accommodation.

abuse support services may be accessed.

#### READ MORE



COVID-19 rough sleepers taskforce launched by MHCLG as domestic abuse survivors are given priority need



Domestic abuse guidance for social landlords released by CIH Scotland



How to support those experiencing domestic violence during the lockdown



Lack of accommodation is leaving domestic abuse survivors 'trapped' during pandemic, charities warn

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline has reported a 50% increase in calls since the start of lockdown.

Charities have been calling on the government to do more to help domestic abuse survivors who are stuck living with their perpetrator due to a lack of alternative accommodation options.

Earlier this month the government announced that domestic abuse survivors are to be given priority need for housing, meaning councils will have a duty to house anyone fleeing domestic abuse.

The call to action comes as the government this week issued **new advice telling social landlords that lettings can resume during the pandemic**, having previously said that only "essential" moves, such as those involving people fleeing domestic abuse, could go ahead.

## RESILIENCE. RECOVERY. REFORM.

Your partner beyond the crisis.

**GET STARTED** 

Brenda Fraser, manager at Homefinder UK, said: "The severity of the calls we [have received] since the coronavirus outbreak is unlike anything we've seen before.

"There is a real crisis which will lead to more deaths, an increase in mental health issues like depression, anxiety and PTSD [Post-traumatic stress disorder].

"We increasingly hear from victims who are trapped at home with their perpetrator during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are locked in and controlled 24/7 without any outlet."

DAHA said: "Prior to COVID-19, there was already an urgent need to increase the supply of genuinely affordable, safe and stable accommodation to support move on from refuge services and from the homes that people living with domestic abuse are fleeing from.

"Urgent planning and preparation is needed now to effectively address the current need and anticipated increase in demand for housing once lockdown lifts."

Sign up for our daily newsletter



NEW TO INSIDE HOUSING? CLICK HERE TO REGISTER AND RECEIVE OUR DAILY NEWSLETTER STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX

Already have an account? Click here to manage your newsletters

Housing Association/RP Allocations Care and support Coronavirus

Housing Management Local Authority







Add New Comment

You must be logged in to comment.

#### RELATED STORIES



How to support those experiencing domestic violence during the lockdown



A week in the life of... a senior lettings officer



Coronavirus outbreaks in one in three care homes in England



Homelessness charities to receive £6m from government's charity support package



L&Q's surplus stabilises but completions fall 15%



The pandemic is a challenge to current practices of development

About us

Subscribe

Contact us

Digital editions

Email alerts

Forward features

How to pitch features

How to pitch comment pieces

Privacy statement

Cookie Policy

Corporate subscriptions

Sponsored content

Subscriptions terms and conditions

General Terms and conditions

Sitemap

For general enquiries you can contact Inside Housing at:

3rd Floor, 4 Harbour Exchange Square, Isle of Dogs, London, E14 9GE

Tel: 0207 772 8300

© 2020 Inside Housing All rights reserved







VIEW ALL

EVENTS JOBS Q