

The City of London Sanctuary Scheme



**Helping Victims of Domestic
Abuse**
Information for professionals



What is the Sanctuary Scheme?

The City of London Sanctuary Scheme is a multi-agency victim centered initiative which aims to enable households at risk of violence to remain safely in their own homes by providing additional protection and security.

The scheme is not an emergency measure but a process that could prevent homelessness by providing households affected by domestic abuse with the option of safer housing.

The scheme is coordinated through the City of London Corporation, in partnership with City of London Police. The primary contact is the Homelessness Officer.

Referrals to the scheme may be made by relevant statutory/voluntary agencies. If eligible, a wide range of security options are available to ensure that the occupier is able to feel safe within their home.



What are the aims of the Sanctuary Scheme?

- Reduce repeat victimisation by improving home security
- Reduce the fear of crime among victims of domestic abuse
- Prevent homelessness and the upheaval of moving home, away from family/friends/support networks
- Deter perpetrator by making property more secure

Who is eligible for the Sanctuary Scheme?

To be eligible for assistance under the sanctuary scheme, someone will normally have to meet the following criteria:

- Victims must live in the Square Mile or in a City of London Corporation property
- The perpetrator/alleged perpetrator must not reside with the victim
- The scheme is primarily for victims of domestic abuse, but may be able to assist other vulnerable people e.g. hate crime victims or elderly people
- Housing tenure should not be a barrier to eligibility, but checks may be required to approve cost/type of work
- If the perpetrator is living in the property, this scheme will be of little benefit and advice should be sought from the Police/local support services (See page 5 of this booklet)
- All referrals to be considered on an individual basis

How do I access the City of London's Sanctuary Scheme?

- **Step one:** Contact the Advice and Homelessness Officer on homeless@cityoflondon.gov.uk
- **Step two:** A Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO) from the City of London Police will then visit you and conduct a crime prevention survey in your home. However, for estates outside of the Square Mile, this assessment will fall to your local Designing out Crime Officer (DOCO)
- **Step three:** If the level of risk indicates that the Sanctuary Scheme is a suitable option following assessment, appropriate works will be requested
- **Step four:** Recommended works will be carried out in partnership with City of London Housing Services

**All information
is dealt with
sensitively and treated
confidentially in
accordance with the Data
Protection Act 1998**

Useful download

For an extensive list of support services, you can view **'The City of London Domestic Abuse Directory of Services'** at the link below.

[Domestic Abuse Support - City of London](#)



**Emergency
Cases dial
999**

Useful Contacts

Homelessness Officer: 020 7332 1804
homeless@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Crime Reduction Officer: 020 7601 2476
doco2@cityoflondon.police.uk

Public Protection Unit - City Police 020 7601 2940
publicprotectionunit@cityoflondon.police.uk

Community Safety Officer:
cstreferrals@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Victim Support 08081689111
<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk>

24 hours Domestic Violence Refuge number 080 8200 0247

City Advice - Toynbee Hall 020 7392 2919
cityadvice@toynbeehall.org.uk

If you would like this information in another language or format such as braille, large print or audio please contact us on the details below;

**Homelessness Team
Department of Community & Children's Services
North Wing, Guildhall
City of London
EC2V 7HH
Tel: 020 7332 1804**

