



Domestic Abuse Policy - Quick Guide (V1.1).

What this policy is about

This quick guide provides a short overview of the Domestic Abuse Policy. It explains how Portsmouth Homes responds to domestic abuse to help people feel safe in their homes and communities.

Domestic abuse is a serious crime. Support is available regardless of whether the police are involved, and seeking help will not affect access to housing or services.

Who it applies to (See policy: Scope, p.3)

This policy applies to domestic abuse involving:

- Portsmouth Homes tenants, leaseholders, shared owners and household members

The policy uses the terms *victim* and *survivor* and respects how individuals choose to describe their own experience.

What is domestic abuse? (See policy: Definitions & Domestic Abuse Act 2021, p.3-4)

Domestic abuse includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, controlling, coercive or economic abuse between people who are personally connected.

It may involve a single incident or a pattern of behaviour. Children who see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse are also recognised as victims in their own right.

How to get help (See policy: Emergency Advice & Direct Access to Support, p.5-7)

Domestic abuse can be reported to Portsmouth Homes by residents, third parties or staff.

- Immediate danger: call 999 if it is safe to do so
- Non-emergency police: call 101
- Specialist support is available through organisations such as Stop Domestic Abuse

You can also speak to Portsmouth Homes staff, who can help you access support safely.

The commitment (See policy: Our Commitment & Survivor-Centered Approach, p.5-6)

Reports of domestic abuse will be handled sensitively, respectfully and without judgement. A survivor-centred approach will be used, supporting informed choice and respecting decisions about involvement with the police, unless there is a serious safeguarding concern.

How we will support (See policy: Housing and Safety Measures & What you can expect from us, pp.5-7)

We will:

- Treat all information confidentially, sharing only where required for safety
- Assess risk and agree appropriate safety and housing measures
- Work with specialist agencies and community partners
- Support people to remain safely in their home where possible, or discuss alternative housing options
- Make reasonable adjustments where needed
- Prioritise the safety of victims/survivors and children

We may also take action in line with tenancy agreements against people using abusive behaviours, where appropriate.

Children and young people (See policy: Children and Young People, p.6)

We recognise the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people and will follow safeguarding procedures, working with specialist services to protect them.

Working together (See policy: Respect for Survivor Choice & Access to Support Without Legal Action, p.5-7)

Support is available even if you choose not to take legal action. You remain in control of decisions wherever possible, and support can continue or be offered again at a later time.

Further information

This is a summary only. For full details, including legal definitions, housing options and support pathways, please refer to the Domestic Abuse Policy or contact Portsmouth Homes.

Alternative formats are available on request.

Link: [Domestic Abuse Policy](#)

