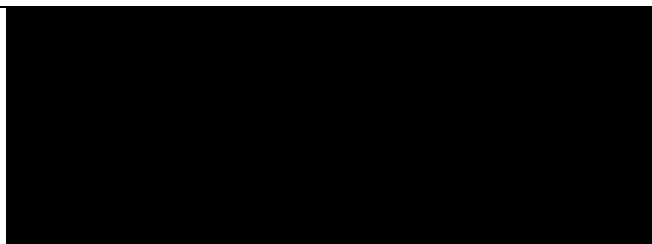


Radian Housing**Domestic Abuse Policy****Version: 1****Approved: 24th February 2009****1. Statement of Intent**

- 1.1 We condemn all incidents of domestic abuse and we are committed to a fast and supportive response to its victims who are residents of properties which are managed by the subsidiary associations within the Radian Group. We will adopt a victim centred approach in all cases of Domestic Abuse. We will consider the safety of the victim of domestic abuse and will deal promptly with any damage caused to a victim's home.
- 1.2 We will use Ground 14A of Schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1985, as amended, to gain possession of a property where the victim has left but the perpetrator of domestic abuse remains in a property. We will also use other legal remedies available to us.

2. Definition

- 2.1 The definition of domestic abuse as published in the Housing Corporation's guidance: Behind Closed Doors: Providing services to those at risk of domestic violence is:

"Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between two adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality".
- 2.2 Included within this definition are cases of female genital mutilation, forced marriage and other forms of so-called "honour" violence.

3. Policy

- 3.1 We will support all victims of domestic abuse and other resident family members impacted by the domestic abuse. This will include working with other agencies with specialist knowledge and skills, or re-housing if appropriate and possible. These may include statutory agencies e.g. Police, who have statutory powers of intervention and voluntary agencies.
- 3.2 We recognise that domestic abuse occurs in all situations and our staff working in the sheltered and care environment will offer support and guidance to victims.
- 3.3 We will ensure that information relating to domestic abuse, including details of help lines, will be displayed in our reception areas and in other public places both under our own and others control which may include public toilets and places where the victim is unlikely to be accompanied by the perpetrator. This will be carried out with our partners at the Domestic Abuse Forums.

- 3.4 We will ensure that all those experiencing domestic abuse are provided with a fair consistent and sympathetic service. Within the constraints of the law we will offer assistance in helping to resolve their situation.
- 3.5 We are committed to working towards preventing and combating domestic abuse to ensure that everybody is allowed to live free from fear, intimidation and violence based on the following principles:
- Those experiencing domestic abuse should never be made to feel responsible for the abuse;
 - Those fleeing domestic abuse should not be required to take any action they reasonably feel will place them in greater danger; and
 - Those fleeing domestic abuse are best able to assess the danger they are in. It is the victim's perception of the situation that has to be of paramount importance at all times.
- 3.6 After investigation of the incident(s) we will take possible action where we are able to do so against the perpetrator which may include working with other agencies. Details of the action that is taken is detailed within the Domestic Abuse Procedure.
- 3.7 We realise it is often extremely difficult for the victim to come forward for help and it may take several attempts for them to actually leave an abusive situation. We accept a victim may choose to return to a potentially abusive situation, but this will not affect the serious way in which their case is dealt with or their treatment if they subsequently return for help.
- 3.8 We will ensure that all front line staff receive regular training in how to approach the very sensitive issue of domestic abuse and to ensure they are aware of key issues and appropriate legislation.
- 3.9 We will take a supportive role in Domestic Abuse Forums in areas where we manage stock.

4. Legal & Regulatory Framework

- Family Law Act 1996
- Matrimonial Causes Act 1973
- Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- Housing Act 1996 (as amended)
- Homelessness Act 2002
- Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) ACT 2007
- Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Housing Corporation Guidance – Behind Closed Doors providing services to those at risk of domestic violence

5. Links to other Policies

- Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- Harassment Policy
- Allocations Policy

6. Related Procedures

6.1 This policy does not set out the practical advice and assistance that should be given to people who contact us about domestic abuse and related issues. These issues are covered separately in the Domestic Abuse Procedure that should be used in conjunction with this policy.

- Domestic Abuse Procedure
- Anti-Social Behaviour Procedure
- Harassment Procedure
- Management Moves Procedure
- Allocations Procedure

7. Responsible Officer

Workgroup Leader, ASB Workstream

8. Review Details

Approved by (including date of approval)	
Review Cycle	Annually
Date of next review	October 2009

9. Associated Documents

Hyperlink One Domestic Abuse Procedure

10. Appendices