

Domestic Abuse Policy	
Policy Owner: Interim Assistant Director of Housing	Policy Ref No: ILS-PL-004
Date Approved: February 2025	Review Date: February 2026

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1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Beyond Housing recognises it has a key role in safeguarding adults and children in the course of the delivery of services. This policy determines how we will assist and support anyone experiencing or threatened with domestic abuse.
- 1.2 Beyond Housing believe that no one should live in fear of violence, abuse or harassment from a partner, former partner or any member of their household. The safety and wellbeing of our customers and colleagues is a priority and it is vital that everyone using our services feels safe and knows who to contact in an emergency.
- 1.3 Beyond Housing commits to treat all reports of domestic abuse seriously and work positively and proactively with the person experiencing abuse to offer support. Additionally, we will work with customers/colleagues who are perpetrators of domestic abuse who wish to positively change their behaviour, by assisting them to access relevant services.
- 1.4 This policy provides Beyond Housing’s approach to safeguarding adults and children either experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse, as well as information in relation to the process for colleagues to raise concerns where they think someone is being, or is at risk of being subject to abuse, neglect or exploitation. Information is provided to support colleagues in recognising what abuse, neglect and exploitation is, what their responsibilities are, and how to raise a concern and work in partnership to address any concerns. The safeguarding procedure (ILS-PR-056) details how these concerns, alerts and referrals are submitted and managed through the Something’s Not Right procedure and subsequent appropriate referral routes.
- 1.5 This policy complements Beyond Housing’s purpose of helping customers and communities to succeed and thrive and supports our mission to provide services our customers value, homes they want, and places they are proud of, delivered by people who care.

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2.0 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to customers, their families and people with whom we come into contact through activities in the wider community, and includes Beyond Housings' colleagues, volunteers, board members and agents acting on behalf of Beyond Housing. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our customers and colleagues. This policy will be applied by all Beyond Housing colleagues through the course of their work.
- 2.2 Beyond Housing will work in partnership with specialist services providing support, advice, guidance and interventions in relationship to domestic abuse, including commissioned services through the local authority areas in which we work.
- 2.3 This policy reflects the local authority area's Domestic Abuse strategies and local support arrangement in place across all locations in which Beyond Housing operates.

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 **Domestic Abuse:** The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines domestic abuse as any incident or pattern of incidents of physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological, emotional or other abuse between those aged 16 and over and *personally connected* to each other.

Persons are 'personally connected' if:

- They are, or have been, married to each other;
- They are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
- They have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- They have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- They are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
- They each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child;
- They are relatives.
- The act also recognises post-separation abuse through coercive and controlling behaviour.

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It no longer makes it a requirement for perpetrators and victims to either still be in a relationship or to still live together.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 also recognises children as victims of domestic abuse (a child who sees or hears, or experiences domestic abuse, and is related to the person being abused or the perpetrator, is considered to be a domestic abuse victim themselves).

This policy will also cover Children and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA).

- 3.2 **Coercive and controlling behaviour:** in 2014 the Government announced a new domestic abuse offence of coercive and controlling behaviour. **The broad definition of this behaviour is a pattern of abuse that involves acts intended to control, manipulate, and terrorise a victim. It can include physical and non-physical behaviours.**
- 3.3 **Controlling behaviour** is defined as including a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent (on a perpetrator) by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capabilities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.
- 3.4 **Coercive behaviour:** is an act or pattern of acts of assaults, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten the victim.
- 3.5 The offence of coercive and controlling behaviour aims to help protect victims by outlawing sustained patterns of behaviour that stop short of serious physical violence, but amount to extreme psychological and emotional abuse. Those subject to coercive control can have every aspect of their life controlled, often being subjected to daily intimidation and humiliation.
- 3.6 Coercive and controlling behaviour underpins domestic abuse and is explained as a range of purposeful behaviours including intimidation, isolation, emotional abuse, and manipulation. These behaviours are often used as the primary mechanisms for achieving power and control in an abusive relationship and these behaviours reinforce the threat or reality of physical abuse.
- 3.7 Within the context of this policy, abuse and harmful behaviours are defined in the following categories:

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Physical abuse	Economic abuse
<p>The use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain or impairment. This may involve, but is not limited to, acts of violence such as, assault, hitting, slapping, pushing. Misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions. A further example of physical abuse would be fabrication or induced illness, where one party would deliberately try to cause the symptoms of illness in another.</p>	<p>Including theft, fraud, coercion, in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits. An example of this would be the restriction in allowing access to finances by one party to another.</p>
Sexual abuse	Psychological abuse
<p>This includes acts such as rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assaults.</p>	<p>Including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or support networks.</p>
Neglect and acts of omission	Discriminatory abuse
<p>Including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health care and support or educational services, and the withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.</p>	<p>Including forms of harassment, slurs or similar unfair treatment; because of race, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation or religion or belief.</p>

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- 3.8 **Honour Based Abuse:** *statutory definition currently being ratified at Governmental level – this definition is to be advised.* Domestic abuse includes ‘Honour Based Violence’ which is a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and / or community by breaking their honour code. For young victims it is a form of child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights. It can be distinguished from other forms of violence, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members. Women, men, and younger members of the family can all be involved in the abuse. Examples of Honour Based Abuse are forced marriage or female genital mutilation (FGM.).
- 3.9 **Familial and inter-generational abuse** describes abuse which differs from partner abuse and occurs within a familial context, such as abuse perpetrated by a teenager or adult towards a sibling, or a child toward a parent or grandparent.
- 3.10 **Elder abuse** describes abuse perpetrated towards older individuals who may be more vulnerable to abuse due to reduced mobility, illness, social isolation, or any other determining factor caused by aging. Typically older people subject to abuse will accept some elements of abuse due to generational conditioning, such as a female experiencing abuse being denied access to finances due to the male partner traditionally being the sole “breadwinner” and thus controlling finances in the household. This would now be accepted as potentially being financial abuse.
- 3.11 **Something’s Not Right (SNR)** is the name given to the internal reporting procedure for safeguarding (and other relevant person or property related) concerns in Beyond Housing. SNR is available to all colleagues to raise concerns via telephone, email, or via PDA, to raise alerts directly with the Safeguarding Coordinator. Colleagues have a duty to act on and raise alerts where they feel that “Something’s Not Right” and the Safeguarding Coordinator can advise them of a course of action accordingly or follow up on reported concerns. All alerts are recorded and tracked through to completion.
- 3.12 **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** is the name given to the multi-agency response in managing and limiting the risk posed to those experiencing domestic abuse.
- 3.13 **Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAAC)** is the name given to the multi-agency response in managing the risks posed by perpetrators of domestic abuse.

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- 3.14 **Section 42 Enquiry:** Local authorities have a statutory obligation (under the Care Act 2014) to make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it is believed an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of neglect or abuse.
- 3.15 **Section 47 Enquiry:** is initiated through an appropriate referral to the local authority to decide whether and what type of action is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child who is suspected of, or likely to be, suffering significant harm.
- 3.16 **Person in a Position of Trust (PiPoT):** A PiPoT allegation relates to a person who works with adults with care and support needs who has behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed an adult or child; possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, an adult or child.

4.0 Responsibilities

- 4.1 The Chief Operations Officer, through the Director of Housing and Supported Living Manager are responsible for ensuring that there is adequate resource to deliver this policy, and that it is applied across the organisation.
- 4.2 The Supported Living Manager is responsible for ensuring safeguarding features as a key element of service delivery, and that beyond Housing meets its responsibilities under safeguarding under the Care Act 2014, specifically in respect of domestic abuse.
- 4.3 Beyond Housing recognise the importance and the need for the correct application of Safeguarding under The Care Act 2014, therefore Beyond Housing will ensure that there is a dedicated resource specific to safeguarding and protecting our customers, colleagues, and their families.
- 4.4 The Safeguarding Coordinator will act as a point of contact for all colleagues as a resource to support, assist and lead on domestic abuse concerns, the Supported Living Manager and/or Supported Living Team Leader will provide additional support.
- 4.5 All Beyond Housing colleagues have both a duty of care and a legislative obligation to report any concerns of safeguarding through the agreed process, extending to concerns regarding domestic abuse.
- 4.6 Beyond Housing will, when escalating alerts raised into local authority safeguarding referrals, follow the respective areas multi-agency policy and procedures, when submitting referrals to request a section 42 enquiry, or submitting concerns pertaining to safeguarding children to initiate a section 47 enquiry.

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- 4.7 Beyond Housing will, when escalating concerns, follow the appropriate local authority process in relation to domestic abuse including referrals into the commissioned domestic abuse services and MARAC / MATAC process (as appropriate).
- 4.8 Beyond Housing will raise public (and colleague) awareness so that professionals, other colleagues and communities, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to domestic abuse.
- 4.9 Beyond Housing is committed to working in close partnership with all relevant statutory and non-statutory organisations to ensure that (as an organisation) we are at the forefront of both local and national best practice. Beyond Housing will (as far as is practicable) ensure attendance at all relevant partnership meetings and forums pertaining to domestic abuse such as Local Safeguarding Partnership meetings (LSP), Children’s Safeguarding Partnership (CSP) meetings, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination meetings (MATAC), Domestic Abuse Partnership meetings (DAP), High Risk Adult Panel (HRAP) meetings, Missing and Child Exploitation meetings (MACE) and other recognised meetings formed as part of wider partnership working (pertaining to safeguarding/domestic abuse).
- 4.10 All relevant colleagues will have Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) checks carried out. Evidence of this is to be recorded by Human Resources. Further information regarding DBS checks is covered in Beyond Housing’s Recruitment & Selection Policy.
- 4.11 Beyond Housing has a Code of Conduct which details the expectations of the behaviour and conduct of colleagues, when acting on behalf of the organisation and can extend in certain circumstances to the behaviour and conduct of colleagues when not at work (for example carrying out certain criminal acts). Allegations of abuse made against colleagues of Beyond Housing will be managed through the relevant HR procedures to minimise risk to others, offer relevant support to colleagues, and to reflect the requirement for robust procedures to manage allegations against Persons in a Position of Trust (PiPoT). Colleagues who fail to meet agreed standards and implement the values of the organisation may be subject to disciplinary action, which can include dismissal from employment.
- 4.12 Beyond Housing recognises that it is critical that all colleagues have training to enable them to recognise the possible signs of domestic abuse and to know what to do if they have a concern, so all colleagues will undertake mandatory training for Safeguarding (including domestic abuse awareness training).

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4.13 All new colleagues to the business (in customer facing roles) will undertake a mandatory Safeguarding induction with the Safeguarding Coordinator within their introductory 6-month period, this induction will include information and training pertaining to domestic abuse.

4.14 All colleagues have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for customers and colleagues by being aware of and applying Beyond Housing’s Safeguarding Policy and this Domestic Abuse Policy and related procedures, and by raising concerns of suspected abuse.

5.0 Legislative and statutory requirements

5.1 Beyond Housing have a statutory responsibility (under the Care Act 2014) to protect vulnerable adults (alongside our existing responsibility for safeguarding children). The Care Act sets out a legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and care system (including housing providers) should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

5.2 Beyond Housing recognises its moral and legal obligation under the Children Act 1989 & 2004 to ensure that children are safeguarded from harm. To this end, Beyond Housing will report concerns accordingly and work in partnership abiding by the principles of the Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory framework (2018), including (but not limited to) children who may witness domestic abuse, or are residing in a household where domestic abuse is taking place.

5.3 The development of this Domestic Abuse policy has given due consideration to, and taken into account any regulatory or legislative requirements under the following:

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- The Housing Act 1988 & 1996 (Amended).
- The Family Law Act 1996
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007
- Police and Justice Act 2006

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- Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- The Equality Act 2010
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Matrimonial Causes Act 1973
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Adoption and Children Act 2002
- Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- The Care Act 2014
- Mental Capacity Act 2005 & 2019
- Clare’s Law, also known as Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)
- Housing Regulatory requirements

6.0 Policy detail

6.1 Beyond Housing is committed to the protection of others from abuse and exploitation by ensuring that we support the 6 Key principles as identified in “Safeguarding under the Care Act 2014”:

- Empowerment – supporting adults to make decisions and informed consent.
- Prevention – taking action before harm occurs.
- Proportionality – taking the least intrusive appropriate response.
- Protection – support and representation
- Partnership – services working with communities.
- Accountability – along with transparency

6.2 Beyond Housing is also committed to:

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- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect to children, and adults with care and support needs.
- Safeguard individuals in a way that supports them in making choices and having control in how they choose to live their lives.
- Promote an outcomes approach in safeguarding that works for people resulting in the best experience possible.

6.3 Beyond Housing will ensure that it will carry out its obligations as stipulated in “Safeguarding under the Care Act 2014”

6.4 Beyond Housing will ensure that when dealing with alerts over concerns raised that due regard will be given to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and 2019 (amended), with regards to determining the capacity of an individual and applying the underpinning principles.

6.5 Disclosure of suspected abuse can be direct, indirect, or via a third – party. Anyone who suspects, observes, hears, or receives a disclosure must record and report this through the Something’s Not Right procedure. Any colleague making or reporting a disclosure will be supported with advice and guidance from the designated safeguarding lead(s). Reporting of concerns is via the Something’s Not Right process (described in the ILS-PR-056 Safeguarding procedure).

6.6 All colleagues are required to:

- Always act where there are concerns,
- Not promise complete confidentiality,
- Not investigate, however, do listen and reassure and write down any disclosures wherever possible,
- Follow the policy and procedure for safeguarding.

6.7 If a disclosure is made, colleagues are to assess the risk for the individual and themselves, based on the information available and follow the safeguarding procedure accordingly.

6.8 In all incidents involving adults, colleagues should obtain consent to share information unless the following applies:

- The adult does not have the capacity to consent (NB Capacity must be assumed unless there is significant and tangible evidence to support that the individual does not have capacity).

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- It puts them or others at risk.
- A child may be involved.
- If it would interfere with the detection or prevention of crime.

6.9 When sharing information regarding a child, consent is **not** required. It is, however, best practice to inform the parent(s) / guardian(s) unless:

- Discussion would put the child at risk of harm.
- Discussion would impede police investigation or a social work enquiry.
- Sexual abuse is suspected.
- Organised or multiple abuse is suspected.
- Fabricated or induced illness is suspected.
- Honour Based Abuse or Forced Marriage is suspected.
- It puts you at risk.

6.10 Beyond Housing recognise the importance of safeguarding, and our approach is to prevent and reduce the risk of harm to adults, young people and children who are experiencing, or are at risk from abuse, or neglect, by making safeguarding referrals to the relevant local authority safeguarding team, where there are recognised links to domestic abuse, in accordance with our safeguarding policy and procedure.

6.11 We recognise that we have a pivotal role to play in recognising and addressing domestic abuse, as well as supporting those subject to that abuse, and supporting those perpetrating domestic abuse to address their behaviour; however, we are not specialists, nor experts at doing so, and will always seek specialist support and interventions through the local authority commissioned services when domestic abuse is either reported to us, or we suspect domestic abuse is occurring.

6.12 Beyond Housing are committed to providing safe homes for all our customers, people experiencing domestic abuse will be treated in a sympathetic, supportive and non-judgmental way. A disclosure of domestic abuse alone is sufficient for an individual to be given advice and assistance as a matter of priority by staff.

6.13 Housing Operational managers will (where CBL policy allows) give priority to property move applications. This is to ensure that there is a pro-active and consistent approach to tackling housing issues relating to domestic abuse, this priority will be determined by band 1 / Gold notification from the local authority.

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- 6.14 We will be flexible in our approach in responding to incidents of domestic abuse, considering the varying circumstances of those experiencing domestic abuse and the differing courses of action available and appropriate action that they may wish to take.
- 6.15 In respect of perpetrators (who are also our customers), we will:
- Work with them to recognise and seek to change their behaviour, through accessing external support.
 - Hold them accountable for their abusive behaviour.
 - If necessary, take action to stop perpetrators continuing the abuse and that they are held accountable through the courts, including asking police to prosecute for criminal damage and taking action to evict the perpetrator of domestic abuse using the powers available under the Housing Act, whilst taking into consideration the wishes of the person experiencing that abuse, and their future housing needs.
 - Work with the local authority, police and commissioned services to minimise the risk to those experiencing abuse through challenging/addressing the behaviours of the perpetrators, through accessing commissioned services for perpetrators, as well as supporting civil and criminal enforcement measures against their behaviour.
- 6.16 We will keep accurate and relevant records, to try to reduce the times that the person subject to domestic abuse has to repeat the same information. Wherever possible we will inform customers when we need to share information with other agencies.
- 6.17 We will assist and guide individuals subject to abuse, to obtain support, providing advice, including supporting them to take appropriate legal measures to protect themselves and their families.
- 6.18 Where individuals (who are experiencing domestic abuse) wish to remain living in their home, we will support them where possible to:
- utilise legal tools to remove the perpetrator from the property
 - explore and install additional (relevant) target hardening measures to the property
 - signpost to specific domestic abuse support
- 6.19 We will assist individuals subject to domestic abuse to find alternative accommodation, if it is not possible for them to remain safely in their home, we will discuss all housing options available, including accessing temporary accommodation via the local authority. We will

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liaise with the local authority and domestic abuse support providers to ensure they can move as quickly as possible to a safe property.

- 6.20 We will promote and publicise a clear message through our website and social media, that Beyond Housing will not tolerate domestic abuse and will support those experiencing abuse to overcome barriers to reporting and/or accessing services. We will promote campaigns and educational interventions in partnership with the local authority and the commissioned specialist domestic abuse support providers.
- 6.21 Where a Beyond Housing property has been damaged by a perpetrator, and the safety of our customer(s) is at risk we will carry out emergency repairs within 24 hours.
- 6.22 All domestic abuse cases will be recorded on our systems and customers will be flagged as in vulnerable circumstances, along with perpetrators for any potential risk.
- 6.23 Beyond Housing has signed up to the Chartered Institute of Housing’s “Make a Stand” pledge to tackle domestic abuse, which has been developed with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance and Women’s Aid. While we recognise that domestic abuse falls under safeguarding, in making a commitment to the “Make a Stand” pledge, Beyond Housing will put into place further provisions to aid and support customers and colleagues who are, or have been, subjected to domestic abuse.
- 6.24 Beyond Housing believe that every colleague who is experiencing or has experienced domestic abuse has the right to raise the issue with their employer in the knowledge that we will treat the matter effectively, sympathetically, and confidentially. Beyond Housing are committed to developing a workplace culture that recognises that some colleagues will be experiencing domestic abuse, and that the workplace should be a place of safety, and one that recognises that perpetrators of domestic abuse are responsible for their behaviour and for addressing this. Beyond Housing aims to create a safer workplace and send out a strong message that domestic abuse is wholly unacceptable.
- 6.25 Colleagues experiencing domestic abuse may choose to disclose, or seek support from a line manager, or colleague. Colleagues taking the disclosure will not counsel survivors, but will offer information, workplace support, and signpost to other organisations.
- 6.26 The Safeguarding Coordinator will be nominated as an additional confidential contact for colleagues. They will also provide guidance for line managers and colleagues who are approached by staff who are subject to Domestic Abuse.
- 6.27 Beyond Housing respects colleagues’ right to privacy and although strongly encourage survivors of domestic abuse to make a disclosure, for the safety of themselves and all colleagues in the workplace, we respect a colleague’s wishes not to disclose if they do not want to.

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- 6.28 Beyond Housing recognise that domestic abuse can impact adversely on a colleague’s performance at work, and line managers should address the issue positively and sympathetically ensuring that the colleague is aware that support and assistance can be provided.
- 6.29 Beyond Housing makes provision for line managers, supporting colleagues who have disclosed they are experiencing domestic abuse, to treat unplanned absences and temporary poor timekeeping sympathetically; as well as the flexibility to allow special paid leave for relevant appointments or support, or changes to working patterns or duties to reduce risk or exposure to the perpetrator.
- 6.30 Domestic abuse perpetrated by colleagues will not be condoned under any circumstances, nor will it be treated as a private matter. Beyond Housing recognises that it has a role in encouraging and supporting colleagues to address abusive behaviour of all kinds. If a colleague discloses their abusive behaviour, Beyond Housing will provide information about the services and support available to them and will encourage the perpetrator to seek support and help from an appropriate source.
- 6.31 Beyond Housing will treat any allegation, disclosure, or conviction of a domestic abuse related offence on a case-by-case basis with the aim of reducing risk and supporting change.
- 6.32 A colleague cautioned or convicted of a criminal offence may be subject to Beyond Housing’s Performance management policy and specifically the disciplinary procedure. Beyond Housing reserves the right to consider the use of these policies and procedures should a colleague’s activities outside of work (whether it leads to a criminal conviction or not) have an impact on their ability to perform the role for which they are employed and/or be considered to bring Beyond Housing into disrepute.
- 6.33 Beyond Housing view the use of violence and abusive behaviour by a colleague, wherever this occurs, as a breach of the organisation’s Code of Conduct for disciplinary purposes.
- 6.34 Beyond Housing will work in partnership with the relevant local authorities, and local police services to try to provide safe and secure homes for our customers. Through local arrangements, and where practicable and reasonable, we will provide “target hardening” measures to add additional security for customers subject to domestic abuse, under guidance and support from local police and respective local authorities.
- 6.35 Beyond Housing are committed to joint working with the local authorities and being active members of each local authority areas Domestic Abuse Partnership.
- 6.36 Beyond Housing recognises that the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has defined that children are now recognised as victims of domestic abuse when living in the household where domestic abuse exists therefore require a mandatory referral to Children’s social care.

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7.0 Underpinning procedures

7.1 This domestic abuse policy links directly to the Beyond Housing safeguarding procedure (ILS-PR-056).

8.0 Controls and reporting

8.1 Beyond Housing will provide governance over the application of the domestic abuse policy (and underlying safeguarding procedure) through monthly self-audit checks by the safeguarding coordinator and checked by the Supported Living Manager; as well as regular monitoring of reports provided to the Customer Health & Safety Forum, (or other relevant forums as requested), the content of the reports will focus on the number of alerts and referrals of domestic abuse, how they are managed, resolved, or escalated, any patterns or emerging themes and any identified concerns over the application of the policy and associated procedures.

Control	Line of defence (1st, 2nd or 3rd)	Responsible (Job role)	Reported to:
Monthly safeguarding case audit 10% check	1 st	Safeguarding Coordinator	Supported Living Manager
Quarterly safeguarding case review / trend analysis	2 nd	Supported Living Manager	Assistant Director of Housing / Customer H&S forum
Internal audit programme	3 rd	Risk & Assurance Manager	Audit & Risk Committee Beyond Housing Board

9.0 Consultation

9.1 Open email consultation has taken place on the creation of a stand-alone domestic abuse policy with directors and managers in Beyond Housing, with the inclusion of the Safeguarding Coordinator, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Human Resources and Assistant Director of Housing.

9.2 External consultation has taken place with Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS), as the commissioned provider, through North Yorkshire Council along with the Domestic Abuse champion and housing and homelessness managers; and with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council Domestic Abuse Partnership and Harbour as the commissioned domestic abuse provider in the RCBC area. Feedback specifically pertaining to BME cultural harm has been received from the Halo Project. Additionally, IDAS have reviewed the policy with

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customers with lived experience who are currently being supported in dispersed refuge accommodation.

10.0 Approval and revision

- 10.1 This policy should be reviewed every 3 years to ensure good practice and reflect current legislation, the initial review should be carried out sooner alongside the organisations safeguarding policy and in tandem thereafter.

Accountable:	Chief Operations Officer
Responsible:	Assistant Director of Housing
Approval body:	Board (new policy)

Version	Date	Information
1	February 2025	Initial development as a stand-alone policy separated from the Safeguarding policy 2023