

Domestic Abuse - Sanctuary Scheme and Staff Training Presentation

1. Guidance or advice notes regarding the use of sanctuary schemes for people dealing with domestic abuse

The attached guidance has been provided in regard to the implementation of the Sanctuary Scheme.

2. Guidance or advice notes regarding any other specific schemes or options for people dealing with domestic abuse

Attached is a staff training presentation regarding the Men's Advisory Project. Further staff training on the issue will also be made available through resources provided by the DoJ.

SANCTUARY SCHEME

GENERAL

CXBC 3rd May 2011 approved full implementation of the scheme to all Local Offices

Under the above scheme, the NIHE can specify and issue work to the All Trades Contractor to provide enhancements such as the installation of grills, cameras, etc. to a designated room in Tenants properties. The work is agreed by the Area Manager/ Assistant Area Manager in consultation with the PSNI and the occupant. The works effectively provide a safe room for the occupant until the PSNI respond when contacted by the occupant who is at risk.

The primary objective of the scheme is to keep families safe from domestic violence and prevent homelessness. A fundamental basis of the scheme is that it is a voluntary option.

In short, a Sanctuary scheme should provide proper, professionally installed security which does not compromise a victim's safety.

PROCEDURE

STAGE 1

The Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) contacts NIHE to establish ownership of the property and arrange an appointment to view the property. (Housing Executive properties only)

STAGE 2

Crime Prevention Officer carries out the risk assessment and the survey. Timescale 1-7 days due to the need to make an appointment.

Crime Prevention Officer, **Maintenance Officer** and Contractor is recommended at this stage

STAGE 3

Client decides whether or not to opt for sanctuary. Signature required.

STAGE 4

Crime Prevention Officer submits recommendations to NIHE – timescale 1 day (Not required if Joint Inspection at **Stage 2** and decision on site at **Stage 3**.)

STAGE 5

Job request is recorded on HMS Repairs at Local Office and specified in accordance with the specification agreed on site.

Within HMS, a new Type of Expense has been created, per [Advice Note 20.11](#) that must be used when work of this nature is being issued.

- The Type of Expense to be used is “**50 – Sanctuary Scheme**”
- A Pre-Inspection **must** be completed at the dwelling to identify the work required
- Jobs must be issued using existing NIHE Priorities, i.e. Emergency, Urgent, Routine, etc.
- All work issued against this Type of Expense will be subject to **100% Post Inspection**.

STAGE 6

Contractor carries out the work

STAGE 7

Compliance inspection carried out (Joint Inspection Recommended)

STAGE 8

Timescale for the entire process is 5 to 14 days. With an Approximate cost of £1500 per property.

Main Features of the Scheme

Sanctuary: creation of a “sanctuary room” – a safe room where the victim can call and wait for the arrival of the police. It is usually the main bedroom. Other work includes door and window security and provision of fire safety equipment.

Sanctuary Plus: As above plus additional security provisions such as door and window grills and higher specification fire safety equipment. ([Appendix A](#))

Sanctuary should not be an immediate emergency response; it should be a considered solution to providing professional security with support. It requires a partnership approach involving key local agencies and it must be the option chosen by the victim.

Provision of Sanctuary in properties with multiple tenancy occupation e.g. flats can present problems as it is difficult to control access to communal entrance doors. Typical action would be to install automatic closers, a robust intercom system and CCTV.

In rural properties the provision of a safe room is not always appropriate due to the isolated location of the property and the installation of a Lifeline alarm (or equivalent) should be considered.

APPENDIX A

SPECIFICATION

The minimum standard of work is:

- 1 x 44mm solid core ½ hour fire door
- 1 x intumescent strip rebated to the full perimeter of the door
- 2 x Europrofile locks with internal thumb turns
- 3 x 200mm (8 inch) steel hinges
- 2 x hinge bolts 1 x memo door viewer
- Collapsible security grills where appropriate
- Door frames secured with 130mm (5inch) frame fixers
- Door jambs secured with 50m x 5 (2 x 1/8) screws
- Seal off letterbox and fit wall mounted external letterbox.
- Provision of fire safety equipment – recommendations should be sought from the Fire Service regarding fire safety and fire fighting equipment. Equipment would include smoke alarms, fire safety packs and where arson is a threat, the provision of a sprinkler system.

Men's Advisory Project



Housing
Executive

Numbers & statistics

- During lockdown 2 men and one boy lost their lives to domestic abuse in NI
- 31% of domestic abuse crime recorded happened to men (PSNI)
- 42% of domestic homicides recorded happened to men (PSNI)
- 11% of male victims of partner abuse have considered suicide (ONS 2019)

Each year MAP engage with and support approximately 1500 men



Experiences of male victims

- Everyone who experiences domestic abuse finds it hard to come forward and seek the help they need
- Men face particular barriers to seeking help
- We have seen through our work that men often have **no one** to speak to about what is happening to them
- Men have few skills to deal with being victimised



Gender and male victims

Gender is central to how men experience victimisation

- Reluctance to access support from services
- Victim stereotypes can work against disclosure
- Stereotypes of masculinity working against disclosure
- Stereotypes in service provision working against disclosure
- Lack of support in workplaces, friend groups and society
- Easily isolated

Barriers to seeking support

Children

- Fearful the children will be further harmed if they leave
- Fearful for what the children are experiencing
- Fearful they will be granted limited contact if they leave
- Fearful they themselves will be further abused if they leave

Male victims do not know or believe they or their children have any rights

Experiences of male victims

- Unsure services available are for them
- Unsure they will be 'heard' and not pre-judged
- Fearful of stereotyping
- Fearful of discriminatory practices
- Worried services are not adequately trained to be able to supportGBT+ men
- Worried services will not understand the complexity of their situation

Barriers to seeking support

Fear of or shame of homelessness

Services/groups not trained to understand the width and complexity of need

Lack of understanding of intersectionality

- Victim can also be disabled or vulnerable
- GBT+
- Non white
- Travellers

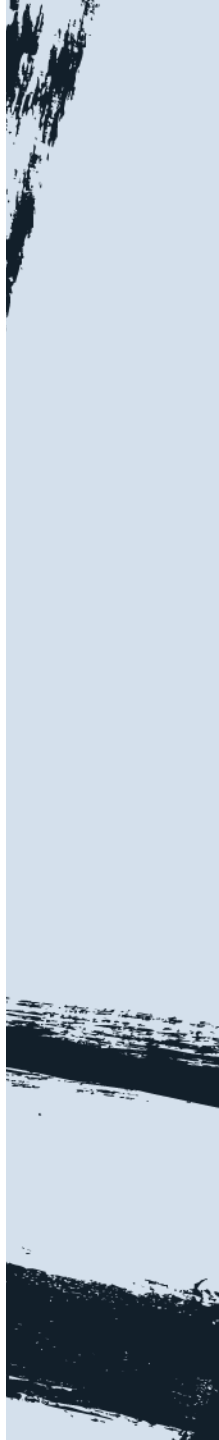
Interfamilial domestic abuse is often ignored completely but is around 34% of the work we do

Experiences of male victims

- Grief
- Fear
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Substance misuse
- Mood dysregulation
- Homelessness
- Powerlessness



- Many men do not realise that they are homeless.
- They equate homeless with rough sleeping
- They have limited understanding of their legal rights
- Fear of becoming homeless makes many men remain in highly abusive and dangerous relationship



Main issues we
have found.

Male victims of domestic abuse

- mental ill health
- substance misuse
- physical disability

Men who have faced longer term
abuse

- extremely limited financial capacity
- interpersonal means
- highly socially isolated.
- often actively suicidal

John

- Presented initially as very angry
- Knew there was no help out there for him
- Thought support services, of all kinds were rubbish

Has now:

- Gained support from his GP and a CPN
- Returned to work on a phased basis
- Secured a tenancy via a deposit scheme

Liam

- Overcome by years of domestic abuse
- Wanted to leave but felt unsafe to do so
- Fearful of homelessness
- Had been given incorrect information previously
- Disillusioned

NOW

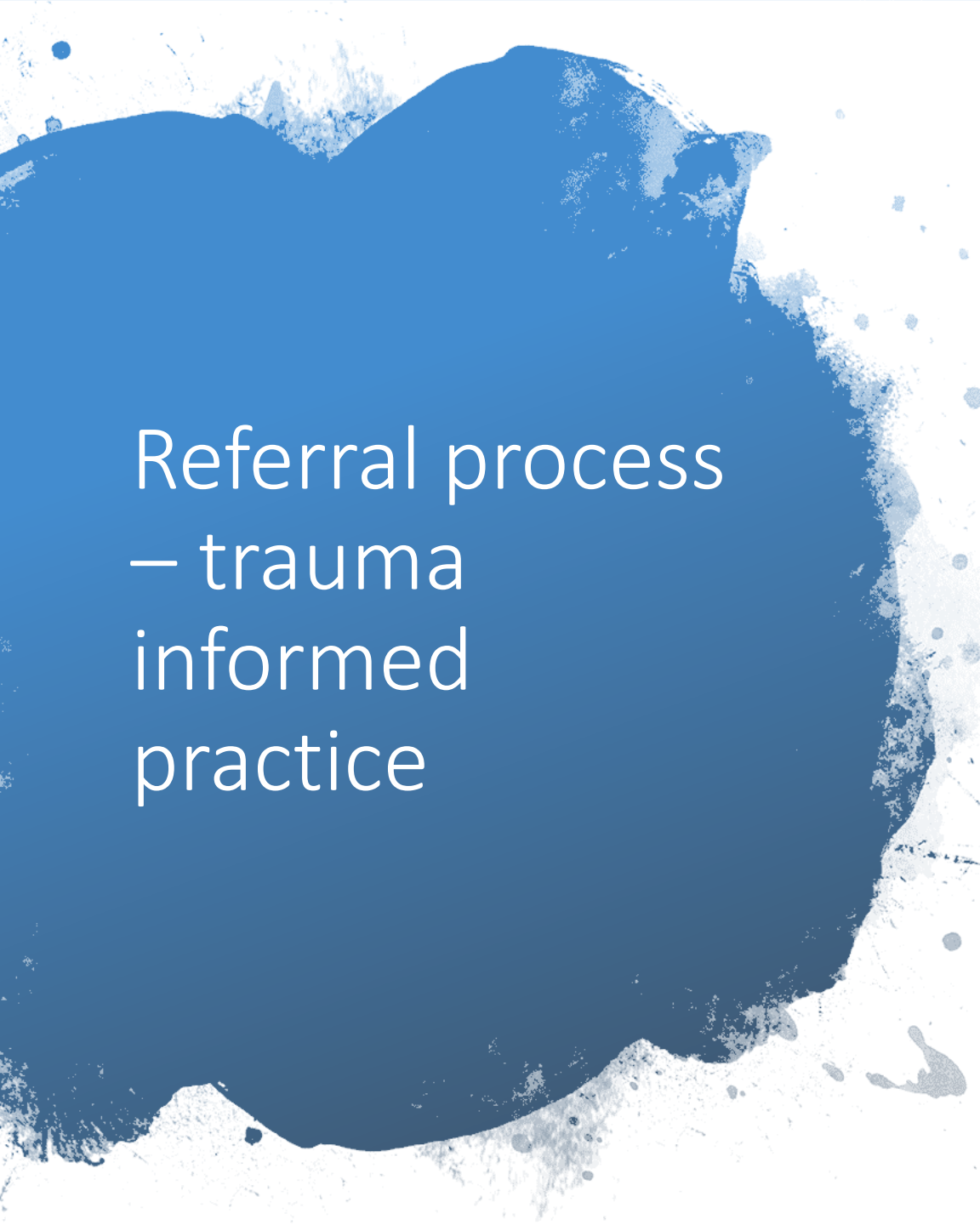
Is living in a hostel awaiting FDA, receives counselling from MAP and support for Support Worker

Liam

- Liam was referred to MAP by the Housing Executive
- He was an older man with multiple vulnerabilities
- He was living in his shed
- Liam had faced different forms of abuse from his wife for 22 years beginning before his marriage
- Liam wanted only a door of his own to shut



Solutions



Referral process – trauma informed practice

- A referral to MAP should always be offered to any man who faces domestic abuse
- Specialist support, working in a trauma informed way, can be seen to reduce victim/survivor suffering
- Email MAP on info@mapni.co.uk
- Leave the man's name and telephone number on our answer service - this creates a computer file and ensures he will be called back



Co-production of services

- Closer working between those supporting victims of abuse
- Eliminates a hierarchy of victim groups
- Equality of provision is key
- Equality of understanding is vital

Contact details

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FEAR OF BECOMING HOMELESS IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS PREVENTING MEN FROM LEAVING ABUSIVE SITUATIONS.

WITH SUPPORT FROM MAP WE CAN WORK WITH YOU TO FIND A HOUSING SOLUTION, ONE THAT IS SAFER.

- ▶ Safety Planning
- ▶ Accommodation
- ▶ Building Support Networks
- ▶ Legal Issues
- ▶ Health and Well-being
- ▶ Money
- ▶ Children
- ▶ Work and Learning
- ▶ Empowerment and Self-esteem

CONTACT THE MEN'S ADVISORY PROJECT
028 9024 1929 OR 028 7116 0001
EMAIL: [INFO@MAPNI.CO.UK](mailto:info@mapni.co.uk)

Housing
Executive

- We could not support men adequately without your help
- You should never underestimate the difference you can make to those you speak to and support.

Thank you

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