



Housing Advice

Victims of Domestic Abuse

If you are a victim of domestic abuse it is vital that you get advice about your housing options as soon as possible.

If you are being supported by a specialist domestic abuse worker e.g. Sefton's Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) or Sefton Women and Children's Aid (SWACA), they will support you to contact the Housing Options Team to arrange a joint assessment of your needs and options.

If you are not currently receiving domestic abuse support, you can get this from local Sefton services. A range of help can be provided depending on your needs and circumstances, including crisis support to help keep you and your family safe, emotional support for you and or your children, and advocating on your behalf with different agencies.

You can contact Sefton Council's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service (IDVA) on 0151 934 5142 and Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA) on 0151 922 8606 for advice and guidance. Further information on domestic abuse can be found at www.sefton.gov.uk/behindcloseddoors

It is not always necessary for the victim of domestic abuse to leave their home; if it is safe for you to do so the Council will work with you and support agencies to help you to remain in your home.

If it is decided that you need to move, then the Council and support staff will work with you to find appropriate alternative accommodation. This accommodation may be temporary in the first instance e.g. a refuge or temporary accommodation.

You can register for local social housing through Property Pool Plus and you may receive a high priority for rehousing because of your currently situation. However, being registered does not guarantee that you will be offered housing or how long that may take.

If you are not registered, you can do so online via www.propertypoolplus.org.uk

You could try to find housing in the private rented sector. Our Housing Options service may be able to advise you how to find out what housing is available locally and how to apply for help with your housing costs.

- our private rented sector bond scheme, or
- Applying to our Housing Benefits service for a Discretionary Housing Payment for securing private sector tenancy (if you are already in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit)

If you feel you are homeless now (or will be within 56 days) because of domestic abuse, please contact the Council immediately on 0151 934 3541 to get advice and assistance.



Where to go to get help and Advice

For further information, or if you need help because you might become homeless, contact us on 0151 934-3541 and ask to speak to a housing options advisor.

You can come into see our Housing Options Service which is based at Magdalene House, Trinity Road, Bootle, L20 3NJ, between the hours of:

- Monday 10am - 4pm
- Tuesday 10am - 4pm
- Wednesday 10am - 4pm
- Thursday 10am - 4pm
- Friday 10am – 3pm

If you are in need of Out of Hours appointment please click [here](#) for details on how to do this.

Alternatively, if you live in the Southport area you may make your initial enquiry to the Southport Housing Centre, 68 Eastbank Street, Southport, PR8 1ES or on 01704 501256. Drop in for advice: Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm, or, Friday 10am to 3pm.

Self-Refer

You are also able to self-refer to Sefton Housing Option Team by completing the registration form by following the link to [Sefton's Jigsaw Registration form](#)