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**One Minute Guide to the Sanctuary Scheme**

**What is it?**

The Sanctuary Scheme aims to help victims who, whilst no longer residing with the perpetrator, are still experiencing, or are at risk of domestic abuse but want to remain in their own home. It provides additional security and is a victim centred initiative. Sanctuary scheme is part of Accessing Change Together (ACT), in partnership with Middlesbrough Borough Council and record information on CDP.

**Why do we offer this?**

Domestic abuse is a large reason for homelessness in Middlesbrough. The scheme provides a preventative approach to resolving homelessness through early intervention and safety planning.

**Who is eligible?**

The scheme is available to residents in the Middlesbrough Borough Council area who are victims of domestic abuse and threatened with violence where, without the support of the scheme and additional security measures, would likely become homeless. Applicants can be local authority, private or Registered Social Landlord tenants or homeowners, however, legal occupation of the property must be solely in the applicant’s name.

**Who is involved?**

The scheme is run as a partnership with Middlesbrough Council and the Sanctuary Scheme Co-ordinator based at My Sisters Place, working closely with Crime Prevention Team at Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade and Staying Put Agency.

**What is the process?**

A Sanctuary Referral Form is completed and submitted to [admin.msp@msp.cjsm.net](mailto:admin.msp@msp.cjsm.net) or [reception@mysistersplace.co.uk](mailto:reception@mysistersplace.co.uk) together with a DASH Risk Identification Checklist.

* Following receipt of a referral and RIC the Sanctuary Scheme Co-ordinator contacts the client to discuss the client’s situation and completes an initial assessment. A safety plan and ongoing support options are discussed.
* A Crime Prevention Officer visits the property and submits their safety recommendations.
* The landlord is contacted and consent to proceed with work is requested.
* Once landlord consent has been obtained Instructions are sent to complete the work. The work is carried out at no cost to the client.
* Cleveland Fire Brigade are notified and a Fire Safety Visit is completed.
* Sanctuary worker contacts the client to check the work has been completed and reviews the support plan.
* Follow up reviews take place after one, three and six months.

