

Broadland Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Development Panel

Agenda

Members of the Broadland Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Development Panel

Cllr Jo Bailey (Chairman)
Cllr Stuart Clancy
Cllr Lacey Douglass
Cllr Mark Goodman
Cllr Kenneth Leggett MBE
Cllr Martin Murrell

Cllr Eleanor Laming (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Richard Potter
Cllr Adrian Tipple
Cllr Dave Thomas
Cllr Shane Ward

Date & Time:

Wednesday, 17 January 2024 at 6.00 pm

Place:

Upper Yare - Horizon Centre, Peachman Way, Norwich, NR7 0WF

Contact:

Jessica Hammond, tel 01508 505298
Email: committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/>

Public Attendance:

If a member of the public would like to attend to speak on an agenda item, please email your request to committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk, no later than 5.00pm Friday, 12 January 2024.

AGENDA

1. **Declarations of Interest** (Pages 3 - 5)
To receive declarations of Interest from Members (guidance attached).
2. **Apologies for absence**
To report apologies for absence and to identify substitute members.
3. **Minutes** (Pages 6 - 10)
To confirm the minutes from the meeting of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Development Panel held on 13 December 2023, and consider any matters arising.
4. **Policy for Customers Experiencing Domestic Abuse** (Pages 11 - 25)

Interests Flowchart

The flowchart below gives a simple guide to declaring an interest under the code.

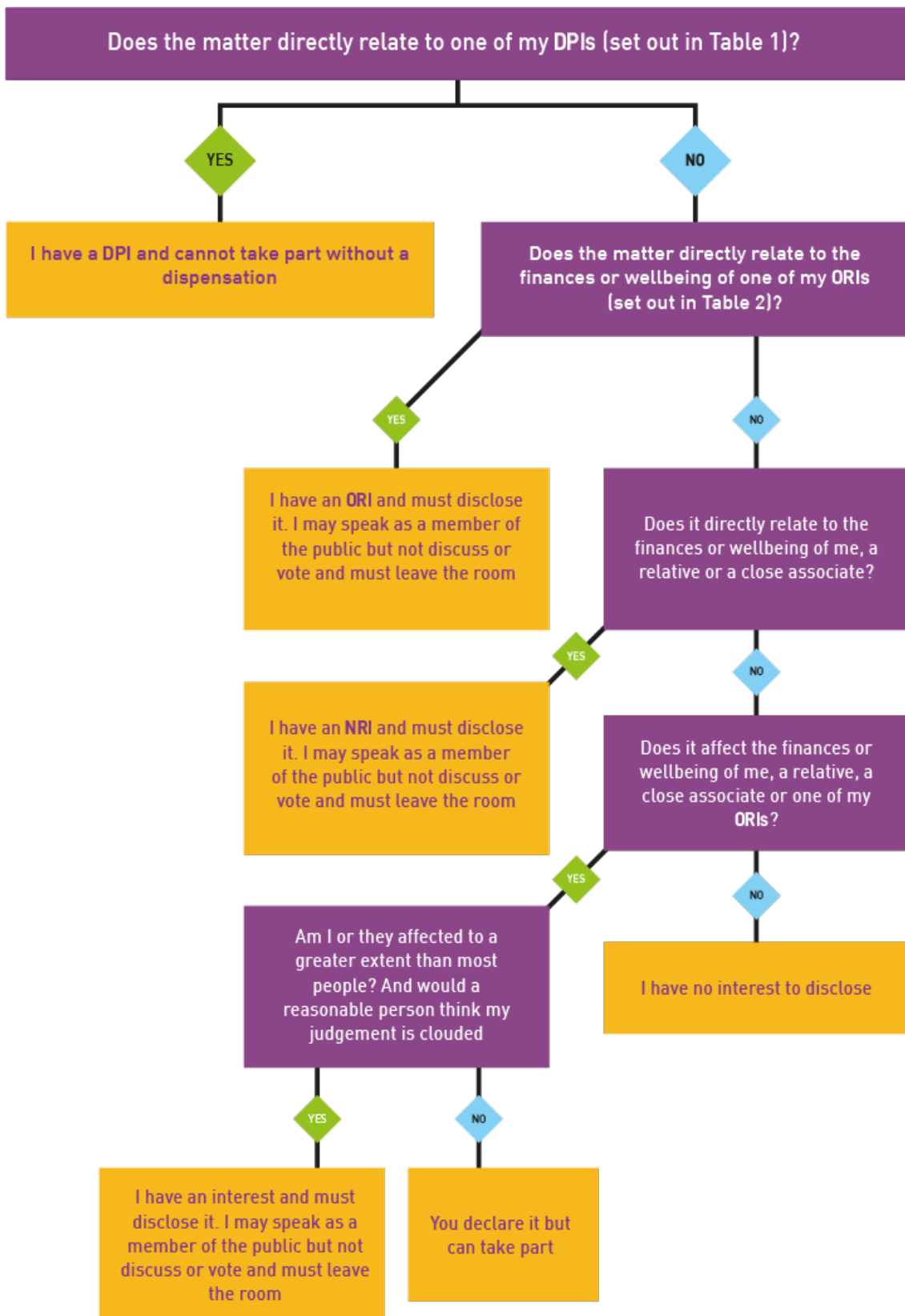


Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the

[Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012.](#)

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer

Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

<p>You must register as an Other Registrable Interest :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) any unpaid directorships b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority c) any body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management
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Agenda Item 3



BROADLAND COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Broadland Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held on Wednesday, 13 December 2023 at 6.00 pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: J Bailey (Chairman), E Laming (Vice-Chair), K Leggett, M Murrell, D Thomas and S Ward

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: L Douglass, M Goodman and R Potter

Substitute: Councillors: F Whymark (In place of L Douglass)

Cabinet Member in Attendance: Councillor: S Beadle and N Harpley

Officers in Attendance: C Bennett (Senior Heritage and Design Officer), P Harris (Place Shaping Team Manager) and J Overy (Democratic Services Officer)

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L Douglass, M Goodman, and R Potter.

13. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

14. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL FOR HALVERGATE AND TUNSTALL CONSERVATION AREA

The Senior Heritage and Design Officer presented the report, which recommended the adoption of a Conservation Area Appraisal for Halvergate and Tunstall Conservation Area by the Council.

Members were informed that the Conservation Area had been designated in 2007 when the existing Conservation Area Appraisal had been also carried out.

The Broads Authority had produced and adopted the Conservation Area Appraisal for Halvergate and Tunstall on 15 September 2023 and, as part of the Conservation Area fell within the Broadland District area, it also required adoption by the Council. No changes to the Conservation Area boundary had been proposed.

The Appraisal assessed the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, reviewed the boundaries, identified buildings of local heritage significance that positively contributed to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, and set out proposals as to how the Conservation Area could be managed and further enhanced.

The Senior Heritage and Design Officer informed the meeting that the Area Assessment included a section on Management and Enhancement which identified sites where enhancement would be desirable, however this did not place any liability on owners to undertake the works outlined.

He added that the Broads Authority had undertaken a rigorous consultation process for the Area Assessment, which included contacting all properties within the area and holding a public meeting/drop-in session. Feedback from the consultation had appended to the report.

A member noted that a consultee had suggested the inclusion of an Article 4 Direction in the Area Assessment, which would remove permitted development rights within the area, and asked why this had not been considered necessary. In response Senior Heritage and Design Officer confirmed that it was not considered appropriate to impose further restrictions on an area that was already protected by its Conservation Area status.

In answer to a further query, it was confirmed that clarification on the respective roles of the Broads Authority and Broadland District Council as Planning Authorities had been clarified at the public meeting and a section had been added to the Area Appraisal.

It was:

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

That Cabinet and Council approve and adopt the Conservation Area Appraisal for Halvergate and Tunstall Conservation Area (Appendix C).

15. GREATER NORWICH FIVE YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN AND ANNUAL GROWTH PROGRAMME

The Place Shaping Manager introduced the report, which sought Council approval of the Greater Norwich Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan and the allocation of funding to projects identified in the Annual Growth Programme. The report also sought approval of the payment of a project management fee to the Greater Norwich Projects Team and the signing of a deed of variation to the agreement entitled 'Partner Draw down and Borrowing Authorisations'.

Members' attention was drawn to the following typographical errors in the covering report:

Para 2.9 As the IIF has matured, the scope of how the fund supports the delivery of infrastructure within the Plan has broadened. There is now a variety of ways in which funding can be allocated to projects, some of which require pre-approval (recommendations ~~i~~ and ~~ii~~ **3** and **4**) which are further detailed within Annex-A ~~B~~.

Para 4.1 ~~2023/24~~ 2024/25 Annual Growth Programme.

Para 4.2 In addition to these three projects, it is proposed that ~~Children's Services~~ Norfolk County Council's **Capital Programme** receive £2.5million to support the development of their education capital programme within Greater Norwich. It is expected that this funding will help support the final expansion at Wymondham High Academy.

The Place Shaping Manager advised the meeting that the report and the recommendations in it had been considered and agreed by the Greater Norwich Growth Board and that the Leader of Council had a seat on the Board.

Members were reminded that the majority of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts were pooled for use via the Greater Norwich's Infrastructure Investment Fund. Five percent was retained for administration purposes and either 15 percent or 25 percent, if a Neighbourhood Plan was in place, was allocated to parishes.

The Greater Norwich Projects Team, which was based at the County Council, worked for the partnership to administer the Infrastructure Investment Plan and each year the Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan and Annual Growth Programme was updated to include projects considered to be a priority for delivery over the next five years as well as those projects which were proposed to receive funding in 2024/25. All the projects had been sponsored by the constituent local authorities of the Greater Norwich Growth Board and the three CIL charging authorities were required to separately agree to the recommendations within the report for them to take effect.

Two additional categories had been added to the Infrastructure Investment Fund last year. The first was Major Projects, which would be used for longer-term projects. No Major Projects had been proposed this year. The second new category was Match Funding, which was allocated £4M of CIL funding at the time it was created and is used to lever in additional external funding. This year £650,000 was allocated for a further phase of development at The Nest from the Match Funding pot. In accordance with delegations agreed in creating the Match Funding category, the decision of whether to allocated funding to the Nest had been taken by the GNGB. It was not proposed to allocate further CIL funding to the Match Funding pot this year. For 2024/25 the Annual Growth Programme proposed that funding be allocated to three projects including, Aylsham Gym and Fitness Hub, which would receive £400,000 out of a total allocation of £928,000.

An allocation of £2.5m to support Norfolk County Council's Education Capital Programme was also proposed. Both the agreement of Annual Growth Programme and contribution to Education were decisions before the committee. The 5 Year Infrastructure Investment Plan also refers to an additional £4.5m that would be drawn down as a loan via the City Deal Borrowing Fund to support the delivery of the Long Stratton Bypass. Whilst referred to within the Investment Plan the decision to allocated additional funding to Long Stratton was taken by the GNGB on 23 September under delegated powers.

Members were informed that forecasting CIL income had become more difficult to calculate in recent years with a drop in income expected from 2024/25. This was mostly attributed to the planning delays caused by Nutrient Neutrality, as well as the transition from the old Joint Core Strategy to the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

In response to a query about risks in Broadland, the Place Shaping Manager confirmed that some of the mitigation being developed by Norfolk Environmental Credits would support development schemes in Broadland and also that some large developers were making their own arrangements to mitigate Nutrient Neutrality and would not require environmental credits from Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd. However, the Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan had taken a realistic view that delays would be likely to occur. Members would be able to monitor the progress of the Plan as it was considered on an annual basis.

In answer to a question about the education allocation, it was confirmed that, in accordance with agreements made by the Council last year, this contribution no longer needed to be allocated to specific projects and instead allowed the County Council the additional flexibility to use the funding to support their capital borrowing to deliver school improvements in Greater Norwich. Although this year the funding was earmarked for a specific project. It was emphasised that the education allocation was a sum that it was hoped could be maintained, but that this would always be dependent on CIL income.

In answer to a query about match funding, the meeting was informed that discussion took place with parishes as part of CIL discussions around planning applications and also through dialogue with the Economic Growth Team. Members were encouraged to bring forward any suggestions for projects that they wished to see considered by the Greater Norwich Projects Team to the Place Shaping Manager.

A member noted that several parishes had considerable CIL receipts and that, for example, Aylsham Town Council could have afforded to fund the Gym and Fitness Hub without the assistance of the contribution from the Annual Growth Programme.

In response Place Shaping Manager informed the meeting that whilst he could not comment on this individual project, he acknowledged that going forward efforts would need to be made to draw in external funding to maximise the return on investment of the CIL receipts.

Members' attention was drawn to recommendation 3 and the details that supported it at Appendix B, which explained that the workload of the Greater Norwich Projects Team had expanded over recent years and an increased Team resource was requested with the additional contribution to fund it. It was proposed that a percentage of the pooled CIL receipts, (around £115,000) be used to fund this further resource.

For recommendation 4 it was requested that a further variation in the loan to increase the borrowing for the Long Stratton bypass, as set out in detail in Appendix B.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

Cabinet to recommend to Council that it:

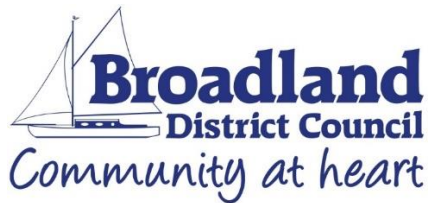
1. approves the Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2024-29 and the proposed 2024/25 Annual Growth Programme as set out in Appendix A;
2. includes the Aylsham Gym and Fitness Hub (totalling £400,000) and the Nest multi-sport indoor community hub (totalling £650,000) into the council's capital programme commencing in 2024/25;
3. approves a new programme management fee within the draft Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan and delegates authority to the Director for Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Policy (Leader) to agree the final fee. This fee will supplement the cost of the Greater Norwich Project Team and the fee for 2024/25 will be in the region of £115,000. The amount for future years will be confirmed within each subsequent version of this Plan. Details related to this recommendation are set out as Appendix B to this report;

and,

4. agrees that the Deed of Variation to the agreement entitled 'Partner Draw down and Borrowing Authorisations', that was originally signed by all partners on 21st October 2015, can be signed. This is required to progress the establishment of the already agreed City Deal Borrowing Loans Fund. Details related to this recommendation, including the Deed of Variation itself, are set out as Appendix B and Appendix C to this report.

(The meeting concluded at 6.52 pm)

Chairman



**Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Development Panel
17 January 2024**

Policy for Customers Experiencing Domestic Abuse

Report Author(s): Sarah Oldfield
Partnerships & Innovation Lead
01603 430121
Sarah.oldfield@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Portfolio: Communities and Housing

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of the Report:

This report details the purpose of the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation and a Policy for Customers Experiencing Domestic Abuse.

Recommendations:

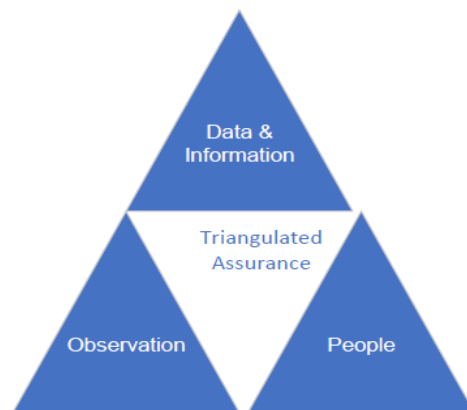
1. The committee to recommend to Cabinet to agree the policy for customers experiencing domestic abuse.

1. Summary

- 1.1 A specific policy for customers experiencing and perpetrating Domestic Abuse is essential to give clear and succinct information about what our services can provide.
- 1.2 The Policy for Customers Experiencing Domestic Abuse has been written to invite, empower and enable victims/survivors to disclose their experiences, safely, knowing that they will be believed and supported to make choices.
- 1.3 The Policy for Customers Experiencing Domestic Abuse outlines our approach to perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- 1.4 The Policy aligns with the One Team values to be Customer Focused and to ensure that services are designed around our customer needs.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has placed greater responsibilities on Local Authorities on how they treat victim/survivors of domestic abuse.
- 2.2 Within our response to the Act, we are working to achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation by autumn 2024, as agreed by CLT.
- 2.3 DAHA Assessment uses a triangulated assurance approach to ensure standards of good practice are embedded in the organisation and workforce. Policies are a key part of the Data & Information Assessment.
- 2.4 DAHA's Triangulated Assurance Method of Assessment:



3. Current positions/findings

- 3.1 Our Housing data recorded an average of 13 cases of Domestic Abuse each month across both Councils for most of 2023.
- 3.2 In October 2023 we recorded a 62% rise in homelessness as a result of Domestic Abuse recorded compared to the same month in 2022.
- 3.3 We have policies that refer to our services regarding domestic abuse. At present we do not have a single policy which encompasses existing policies and reflects our approach for customers experiencing Domestic Abuse.
- 3.4 This policy complements existing policies and enhances the comprehensive support we offer to Customers experiencing Domestic Abuse.

4. Proposed action

- 4.1 Our Policy for Customers Experiencing Domestic Abuse is based on DAHA's values and principles.
- 4.2 The policy includes the support we offer from our Help Hub and Housing, including the Sanctuary Scheme and Tenancy support. It outlines our support for children affected by Domestic Abuse and our approach to perpetrator management.
- 4.3 The policy includes our involvement with multi-agency working and support for those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).
- 4.4 The Policy will form part of our Publicity and Awareness Raising Campaign which will highlight the support we offer to customers and also to staff affected by Domestic Abuse.
- 4.5 A copy of the Policy is at appendix 1.
- 4.6 Mandatory training on Domestic Abuse is being rolled out to all staff during 2024. Our Domestic Abuse Champions are being re-launched in January 2024. Further training will be available to managers and specialist support staff to enhance our response to Domestic Abuse and reinforce our 'zero tolerance' approach.

5. Other options

- 5.1 None

6. Issues and risks

- 6.1 **Resource Implications** – This policy has been developed by the DAHA Programme Lead, within existing DAHA budget. There is no financial impact and/or impact on staff or property.
- 6.2 **Legal Implications** –Copy of the Policy has been sent to the Monitoring Officer. There are no legal implications.
- 6.3 **Equality Implications** –The policy reflects the gendered nature of domestic abuse and that children are recognised as victims/survivors of domestic abuse (DA Act 2021). It recognises these diverse needs of our communities and is accessible to all.
- 6.4 **Environmental Impact** – there are no environmental impacts from this policy.
- 6.5 **Crime and Disorder** – support for customers experiencing domestic abuse will not adversely impact upon crime and disorder.
- 6.6 **Risks** – None

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 All Tier 1 and Tier 2 Local Authorities in Norfolk are working to complete the Domestic Abuse House Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation.
- 7.2 South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils wish to achieve this Accreditation because it is the right thing to do, as agreed by CLT and in our forward plan on..... The Policy for Supporting Customers experiencing Domestic Abuse improves the service we provide to our customers impacted by domestic Abuse.
- 7.3 It also demonstrates our organisational commitment to helping people recover and move on from domestic abuse.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The committee to recommend to Cabinet to agree the policy for customers experiencing domestic abuse.

Background papers

None

Appendix 1

South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council

DRAFT Policy for Supporting Customers experiencing Domestic Abuse

Version	Summary of changes	Document Status	Date
V1		Draft	23 03 23
V2	Updates added from GB, HS, GF	Draft	03.05.23
V3	Policy Revision & Procedure created	Draft	2.11.23
V3	Updated & Comments Added by RD, SO & MP	Draft	7.12.23 20.12.23

QR code

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- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 What is Domestic Abuse
- 3.0 How to Contact Us. Our Offer
- 4.0 Perpetrator Management
- 5.0 Prevention and Awareness
- 6.0 Reporting and Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Against Staff
- 7.0 Monitoring and Review
- 8.0 Equality and Diversity
- 9.0 Information Sharing
- 10.0 Complaints

Appendix

- 1 Associated Procedures
- 2 Related legislation and policies.

1.0 Introduction

Domestic Abuse is unacceptable. South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council are committed to ensuring all customers affected by domestic abuse are treated in a sympathetic and sensitive manner by trained staff, acting in a non-judgemental way.

This policy sets out the services we provide. Our aim is to improve victim-survivor safety and housing security and to hold perpetrators to account for their harm.

As part of this we will:

- Work with other agencies to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse,

- Include Domestic Abuse Legislation in the delivery of our housing services,
- Provide best practice Domestic Abuse procedures to our housing professionals.
- Support victims and survivors to remain in their own homes, where safe to do so.
- Support people and help them to make their own choices.
- Share information in a secure and timely way
- Safeguard adults and children affected by domestic abuse.
- Support perpetrators to address their behaviour.

This policy has been developed in conjunction with Norfolk-wide domestic abuse strategies, partner agencies, staff, victims and survivors to identify their needs and how to support them.

Domestic abuse does not discriminate and can affect anyone of any gender, ethnicity, religion, class, age, sexuality, disability, or lifestyle. However, it should be noted that most survivors of domestic abuse are women and children. Women are also considerably more likely to experience repeated and severe forms of violence and sexual abuse.

We accept that, for many survivors, it can take repeated incidents before they seek help and may take months or years to approach us. When help is sought the victim-survivor will be believed and help provided will be sympathetic, appropriate and consistent. We will listen to their needs and wishes in agreeing a course of action.

We have a non-judgemental approach to relationships and understand the first contact may be your first step to ask for help.

Note on language

Throughout this document we may use language to refer to people seeking domestic abuse support as; victims, survivors, those experiencing/have experienced domestic abuse and victim-survivors. This is to recognise that people may be at different stages of their journey and reflects how people may view themselves.

2.0 What is Domestic Abuse

South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council recognises and acknowledges its legal duties and obligations under legislation relating to domestic abuse:

Statutory Definition of Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, has defines domestic abuse as:

Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—
A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—

- physical or sexual abuse;

- violent or threatening behaviour;
- controlling or coercive behaviour;
economic abuse - meaning any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B's ability to acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or obtain goods or services
- psychological, emotional or other abuse; and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

A's behaviour may be behaviour "towards" B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B's child).

References in this Act to being abusive towards another person are to be read in accordance with this section.

Who can experience domestic abuse?

Definition of "personally connected".

For the purposes of this Act, two people are "personally connected" to each other if any of the following applies:

- 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 (see subsection (2))
- they are relatives.

For the purposes of subsection (1)(f) a person has a parental relationship in relation to a child if:

- the person is a parent of the child, or
- the person has parental responsibility for the child.

The full definition is at legislation.gov.uk

The 2021 statutory definition clearly emphasises that domestic abuse is not solely physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse.

As part of the definition, children are explicitly recognised as victims-survivors if they see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse.

More information on types of abuse is available from NIDAS at <https://nidasnorfolk.co.uk/domestic-abuse/>

A further range of measures and initiatives include targeted work with perpetrators and the introduction of Domestic Abuse Protection Notices.

3.0 How to contact us:

We will treat all reports of domestic abuse with respect, sympathy and confidentiality and will listen to the needs and wishes of the survivor in agreeing a course of action.

You can contact the Help Hub on **01508 533933** or **01603 430431**.

Email: helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Or visit our Domestic Abuse webpage:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/domestic-abuse>

If you are concerned about yours or a loved one's relationship, it's important to get advice and support to stay safe.

3.1 Support we offer

All reports of domestic abuse will be responded to, including any made in confidence and those made by someone not directly involved, such as partner agencies, neighbours and contractors.

We work with our partner agencies to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse. We will arrange a safe time, place, or communication method which is convenient for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

We recognise the diverse needs of our communities and will establish what requirements are needed, for example a language or BSL interpreter. We will not ask for any undue or unnecessary information at any stage of the support we offer.

We can work with perpetrators, where appropriate and where we can do so without compromising the safety of individuals affected by domestic abuse.

In cases where our employees are experiencing domestic abuse, we use the South Norfolk and Broadland Staff Domestic Abuse Policy.

3.2 Housing

South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council is committed to supporting people to remain safely in their homes, where appropriate to do so. Our Domestic Abuse Support Specialists can assist with safety planning advice and support. Specialised safety planning referrals will be made to our specialist domestic abuse partners.

We will house you in line with Housing and Homelessness Legislation and our Housing Allocations Policy and any subsequent variations.

3.3 Sanctuary Scheme

The Sanctuary Scheme is a victim centred initiative. It aims to allow victim-survivors of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes and help them to stay closer to their support networks.

More information on the Sanctuary Scheme and referral form is available from <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/sanctuariescheme>

3.4 Tenancy

If a victim-survivor of domestic abuse loses their secure tenancy as a result of the abuse, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires local authorities to grant another secure tenancy to the victim-survivor if they rehouse them into a further social tenancy.

On occasion there may be a period of time whereby alternative accommodation is suitable to allow support and guidance to be put into place to support them in their new tenancy.

Granting a sole tenancy to the original property will depend on the person's housing needs and whether it would be considered safe for them to remain there.

These decisions will be made in consultation with the victim-survivor and other professionals. We advise victims-survivors to seek advice and support to be fully informed of their options and advice where appropriate to avoid losing their tenancy.

Agreements are in place with Housing Associations that those fleeing Domestic Abuse should not be offered a lesser tenancy agreement than they currently have in place.

3.5 Safe Accommodation

Refuge accommodation: a refuge offers accommodation and intensive support as part of the accommodation. Victim-survivors, including their children, must be refuge residents to access expert emotional and practical support.

Specialist safe accommodation: specialist refuges for ethnically diverse communities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Questioning and other ("LGBTQ+") communities, and disabled victims-survivors and their children. These may provide single sex or gender accommodation with dedicated specialist support to victims-survivors who share a protected characteristic(s). This includes services that are led by those that also share the protected characteristics and/or have complex needs.

Move-on and / or second stage accommodation: these are interchangeable terms for projects temporarily accommodating victim-survivors. It includes families who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge but would still benefit from a

lower level of domestic abuse specific support for some time, before moving to fully independent and permanent accommodation.

More information is given in **Support in Safe Accommodation for Norfolk**

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/safety/domestic-abuse/support-in-safe-accommodation-for-norfolk-2021-2024.pdf>

3.6 Multi-Agency working

Where debt or financial support is needed, we offer advice from Help Hub Debt Advisors. We work in partnership with the South Norfolk and Broadland IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) and Homeless Team to assess and support individuals who present as homeless due to domestic abuse.

We can refer victims and survivors of domestic abuse to other organisations who provide legal advice and well-being services to survivors of domestic abuse

3.7 Support for children affected by Domestic abuse.

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, where children of the household have seen, witnessed or experienced the effects of domestic abuse, they will also be considered as victims of domestic abuse. This recognises the long-lasting impacts of domestic abuse and takes steps to ensure that specific children and young person support is available.

We recognise that concerns about children remaining at their school or having to leave support networks with families and friends can be barriers for victims to leave abusive relationships or be reluctant to move from an area.

To help this, we will:

- Treat children and young people of the family as victims-survivors of domestic abuse.
- Refer children and young people for appropriate support.
- Consider children and young people needs, taking into consideration any special educational needs that can only be met by a specific facility or vital educational years such as GCSE or A-Level studies.

3.8 Support for those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Organisations helping victims and survivors with NRPF should make a referral to the People from Abroad Team at Norfolk County Council.

More information is in the Norfolk Domestic Abuse Housing Protocol.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/safety/domestic-abuse/support-in-safe-accommodation-for-norfolk-2021-2024.pdf>

Support Available:

- Police - in an emergency **999**, non-emergency **101**
- Black Country Women's Aid: 0121 553 0090
- National LGBT+ Domestic abuse helpline: 0800 999 5428

- The Haven, 24-hour referral line: 08000 194 400 or www.havenrefuge.org.uk
- National Domestic Violence Helpline 24 hours: 0808 2000247
- Karma Nirvana: 0800 5999 247 / Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
- MALE (men's advice line and enquiries) 0808 801 0327
- RESPECT (for men in danger of being violent or abusive): 0808 802 4040

Further information is available on our Domestic Abuse webpage at <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/domestic-abuse>

4.0 Perpetrator Management

When supporting someone experiencing abuse, we will take account of their wishes and not assume that they wish the matter to be reported to the police or that they want a shared living arrangement to end. If the survivor wishes to remain with the perpetrator, any decisions around support will be based on the specific risks associated with the situation.

Our Housing staff receive specialist training in Domestic Abuse and how to refer to other specialist Domestic Abuse services.

It is also recognised that, from time to time, Housing Advice and Housing Services staff may be expected to support a perpetrator with their housing options.

Where counter allegations of harm exist, we will work with specialist domestic abuse and partner agencies to identify the primary perpetrator and to ensure support is provided to the victim. We will never blame the victim/survivor for the abuse they have endured.

We will also ensure that information and support is available to perpetrators who wish to address their behaviour. This can include signposting to specialist services for further advice.

Safeguarding is everybody's business, with everyone playing a part in preventing, identifying, and reporting abuse. South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council are committed to working collaboratively to improve the outcomes for adults and children who are experiencing domestic abuse.

5.0 Prevention and Awareness

We are committed to:

- Ensuring all staff working for or on behalf of South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council are familiar with policies and procedures relating to domestic abuse and safeguarding.
- Providing training to all employees in recognising domestic abuse, how to respond appropriately and respectfully and how to record and report it.
- Offering Awareness Raising and Training on Domestic Abuse to Members.
- Appropriately sharing information with statutory agencies and partner organisations about individuals who may be at risk from domestic abuse with due regard to confidentiality and information sharing protocols.
- Meeting our statutory safeguarding requirements in line with existing policies and procedures where there are safeguarding concerns about a resident or child.

6.0 Reporting and Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Staff

South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council has a 'zero tolerance' of any form of domestic abuse and is committed to responding appropriately to concerns about anyone who works for, or on behalf of, South Norfolk and Broadland in any capacity in relation to their behaviour and conduct towards others (in any setting, not just in the workplace).

If concerns are raised, we will deal with the matter internally using existing HR Policies and practices which will not be confused with any statutory investigations which may be required and carried out by Social Care and the Police.

South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council will seek the advice and assistance of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in managing any case if this involves a person in a position of trust with a child.

7.0 Monitoring and review

Where an allegation of abuse is made all agencies have a responsibility to keep clear and accurate records. It is essential that evidence is protected, to show what action has been taken, what decisions have been made and why.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if there are significant changes required in the light of best practice and any changes to legislation and Government guidance. This will include staff and customer feedback, local Domestic Homicide Review, Serious Adult Review recommendations and findings.

8.0 Equality and Diversity

We are committed to encouraging equality and diversity, both as local authorities and as employers. We strive to remove any barriers to enable engagement and to provide access to our services for all members of the community and we are committed to eliminating all forms of unlawful discrimination. Further information is in our [equality-and-diversity-policy \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/equality-and-diversity-policy)

Our joint Public Sector Equality Duty annual statement, which is published on our website, provides details of how the Councils advance equality of opportunity, and promote good relations with protected groups by engaging with, and supporting, individuals, local community groups and cultural events

We recognise that:

- All adults and children have a right to equal protection from domestic abuse, regardless of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, gender identity or gender expression, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity or any other equality characteristic.
- Some adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- We are committed to working with our partners and communities to promote good relations and to combat prejudice, discrimination and harassment.

9.0 Information sharing.

We will only share information with other agencies, under existing data sharing agreements, with the consent of the person experiencing any domestic abuse, or if:

- The information is required for the protection of children.
- We are required by law to share the information.
- There are legal reasons to protect a person without capacity.

Any decisions made by professionals that affect the person experiencing domestic abuse should be proportionate and take into account their wishes (where known) as closely as possible. If you have information that you do not wish to be shared with our partners that may impact your safety, please advise us at the time.

Sharing information at the right time, with the right people, is good practice in domestic abuse and adult and children's safeguarding. More information on this is at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/domestic-abuse/information-for-professionals/information-sharing>

South Norfolk and Broadland will appropriately share information with statutory agencies and partner organisations on a need-to-know basis about individuals who may be at risk from domestic abuse with due regard to confidentiality and information sharing protocols.

10 Complaints

Any complaints should be addressed in line with our complaints procedures.

The responding officer may discuss the complaint with the Domestic Abuse Lead or one of the organisation's Domestic Abuse Champions to ensure that matter is viewed through an informed domestic abuse lens.

An overview of our complaints procedure is available on the website.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/compliments-suggestions-complaints>

Appendix

1 Associated Procedures

Housing Register

Social housing in Broadland and South Norfolk is allocated through our [Housing Register - Home Options](#).

2 Procedures & Policies used to create this document.

South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council Policies

- South Norfolk and Broadland Children, Young Persons and Adult Safeguarding Protocol
- Staff Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
- Housing Allocations Policy
- Domestic Violence and Abuse Staff Policy and Procedures
- General Data Protection Regulations (2018)
- Equality and Diversity Policy 2022-2025

Norfolk Wide Policies

- Norfolk Domestic Abuse Housing Protocol 2022-2025
- Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021-24
- Norfolk Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2025 (link to be added)
- Norfolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Prevention Strategy
- Norfolk Sexual Violence Strategy
- Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Partnerships Arrangements (DAPPA)
- Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

Legislation

- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021(Eng. & Wales),
- Child Safeguarding legislation including Children Act 2004,

- Homeless Reduction Act 2017
- Civil Partnership Act 2004
- [Housing Act 1996](#)
- [Homelessness Act 2002](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#).
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)

Our Partnerships

[NIDAS](#) (Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service)

Housing Advice and Allocations Lead Officer (HAALO) group.

Norfolk Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (NDAPB)

Norfolk Community Safety Partnership (NCSP)

Norfolk's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group (DASVG)

List of all procedures and policies are on our Domestic Abuse webpage. [Link](#)