



## Easy Read version of the Domestic Abuse Policy for the Housing Service



made with  
photosymbols®

# BIG words

In this document, difficult words are in **bold**. You can find an explanation of what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are blue and underlined. These are links which will go to a website which has more information.

This document is an easy read version of the Domestic Abuse Policy for the Housing Service

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/council-plan-constitution-and-strategies/strategies-plans-and-policies>



This **policy** explains how we will work together to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse. A policy is a set of rules for staff.



We believe everyone should live without fear of **abuse** or violence.

Abuse is when someone hurts another person.



**Domestic abuse** is when you are harmed by a family member or someone you live with or used to live with. It often happens at home.



**Physical abuse** means hurting someone. It can happen to children and adults. Other words for it are physical assault or violence. This can include not allowing someone to have their tablets or medicine.



**Sexual abuse** is when someone hurts another person in a sexual way. If a person doesn't want to be touched or kissed but are scared to say no, it is abuse. It includes making someone do something sexual that they don't want them to do.








**Violent or threatening behaviour** is when someone acts on purpose to make others scared. This can make people think they might get hurt.



**Controlling or coercive behaviour** means making someone do something they don't want to do. This is done by using threats. Threats can be about hurting someone. This takes away a person's choice. Stopping someone from leaving their home or seeing family and friends is coercive control.



**Economic abuse** is when someone controls another person's money. This makes it hard for them to look after themselves. They have to rely on the person who is being mean to them. It also means stopping someone from getting a job or learning new

	<p>things. This might stop them from earning money in the future.</p>
	<p><b>Psychological</b>, emotional, or other abuse          Psychological abuse is when someone hurts another person's feelings. It can make people feel very sad or scared. This type of abuse can cause problems like anxiety or depression.</p>
	<p>Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, no matter their gender, age, disability, ethnicity or other differences. But it mostly affects women and girls.</p>
	<p>Children can be affected by seeing domestic abuse in their home. We can tell you about support for children who are affected.</p>
	<p>As a council that provides housing to people, we make sure that the people who work for us know how to spot domestic abuse by training staff. The council are diverse, culturally aware and will offer the right support to people of all ethnicities.</p>
 <p>Council</p>	<p>We promise to listen and help anyone who tells us about abuse.</p>





Everyone should feel safe in their own home. We support those who have been hurt to feel safer at home.

We can also help you to move to a safer place to stop harm and seek the best accommodation to meet your needs

## Our Standards for Responding to Domestic Abuse





	<p>We know it can be hard to talk about domestic abuse. If you think you are a victim and tell us your story, you can expect help.</p>
	<p>We will listen to you and respect your wishes. You will be treated kindly. If you are in danger we will get help.</p>
	<p>You can ask to speak with someone of the same or different <b>gender</b> or <b>sexual orientation</b>. We will try to meet your needs.</p> <p>Gender is about how people see themselves as a man, woman, or another gender. It includes how people act and feel. Sexual orientation is about who you love or feel attracted to.</p>
	<p>You can talk about your worries when you contact us. We will make sure you are safe and speak to the right person within 24 hours.</p>

	<p>Staff will talk to you about staying safe and your individual needs.</p>
	<p>If it is not safe to talk now, they will find a better time and place to talk.</p>
	<p>If you do not speak English well, or not able to read or write, they will get help for you to communicate in the way you would like.</p>
	<p>Staff will listen to your wishes and find support to improve your safety.</p>
	<p>They will also check if there are any other <b>risks</b> and tell the right people if needed.</p> <p>Risk means something bad might happen. Knowing about risk helps us make good choices. We can try to stop bad things from happening.</p>

# How to get help if you think you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse is suffering domestic abuse

	<p>If you are in danger, call the Police on 999 (if it is not safe to speak press 55) If you have a hearing impairment text register to 999 then send a text using relay</p>
	<p>If you need to talk about abuse call IDAS 03000 110110 - Independent Domestic Abuse Services <a href="https://idas.org.uk/get-help-now/">https://idas.org.uk/get-help-now/</a></p>
	<p>Easy Read IDAS leaflet <a href="https://safeguardingadults.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/What-is-domestic-abuse-easy-read.pdf">https://safeguardingadults.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/What-is-domestic-abuse-easy-read.pdf</a></p>
	<p>Halo support victims and survivors of abuse from black and <b>minoritised</b> communities – 01642 683045 <a href="#">Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Charity - Halo Project</a> Minoritised groups are people who are different. They might have a different race, religion, or come from another country. They might love someone of the same gender or be a different gender.</p>
	<p>Housing Advice if you are experiencing domestic abuse 0300 1312131 <a href="https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness/homelessness/homelessness-advice-vulnerable-groups/housing-advice-those-suffering-domestic-abuse">https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness/homelessness/homelessness-advice-vulnerable-groups/housing-advice-those-suffering-domestic-abuse</a></p>
	<p>If someone is abusive and wants to change and stop this, there is help available.</p>



 <p>Inspiring independence. Transforming lives.</p>	<p>In North Yorkshire, Foundation run the +Choices program telephone 01904 557491 or email <a href="mailto:foundationdapp@foundationuk.org">foundationdapp@foundationuk.org</a>. website <a href="https://www.foundationuk.org/team/choices-domestic-abuse-perpetrator-programme">https://www.foundationuk.org/team/choices-domestic-abuse-perpetrator-programme</a></p>
	<p>Relay - enables people with hearing or speech impairment to contact emergency services – <a href="http://www.relayuk.bt.com">www.relayuk.bt.com</a></p>
	<p>Easy Read Guides and Audio guides are available online around Keeping Safe and abuse <a href="#">NYSAB</a>  <b>Book 1 – What is Abuse.</b>  <b>Book 2 – Speaking up about Abuse.</b>  <b>Book 3 – Reporting Abuse.</b></p>
	<p>North Yorkshire Fire Service – provide fire safety advice - <a href="#">Domestic Abuse Fire Safety Referral - North Yorkshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service</a></p>

Updated February 2025