

Housing Advice

Sanctuary Scheme

A place of safety for those at risk

What is a Sanctuary Scheme?

The Sanctuary Scheme is a free scheme that has been developed for people who are affected by domestic abuse in the Harrow area.

If you no longer live with the perpetrator, we think it's important for you to have the choice to stay in your own home and feel safe without living in fear.

Harrow Council works in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service and other agencies to improve your security by fitting extra locks and bolts on doors and windows. In addition, if necessary, we can install a Sanctuary Safe Room which provides you with a place of safety in your home (usually the main bedroom) from where you can call for help and wait for the arrival of the emergency services.

Are you eligible for the Sanctuary Scheme?

The Housing Assessment Team will meet with you to discuss your options and to decide if the Sanctuary Scheme is the right choice for you based on your individual circumstances.

The Sanctuary Scheme is available whether you are a council, housing association, private tenant or owner occupier. There are some eligibility checks and not all properties are suitable for the scheme. Owner occupiers may be subject to a financial check. If you are a tenant, we will need your landlord's permission before the work can go ahead. Everything will be treated in confidence.

The Sanctuary Scheme Process

Step 1:

You can contact any of the following:-

Harrow Housing Assessment Team, Civic Centre, Harrow, HA1 2XG 020 8424 1093

Email: housing.advice@harrow.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police - dial 101 ask for Harrow Police Community Safety Unit

Domestic Violence 24 hour Helpline 0808 2000 247

Hestia Harrow Domestic Abuse Support Service (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor)

020 8907 8148 Email: idva.harrow@hestia.org

Victim Support Harrow 020 7336 1768 / 020 7336 1779

Harrow Adult Safeguarding Service 020 8420 9453

Step 2:

Whoever you contact will arrange an appointment with a housing advisor from the Housing Assessment Team who will meet with you to decide if the Sanctuary Scheme is the right choice for you or what other options are available.

Step 3:

If it is the right choice for you, the Housing Assessment Team will arrange for a security survey to be carried out at your home.

Step 4:

The Housing Assessment Team will contact your landlord, if appropriate, to seek permission for the work to go ahead.

Step 5:

The Housing Assessment Team will arrange and pay for the Sanctuary Scheme work to be carried out.