

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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Definition

The Association defines domestic violence as:

- Physical violence, threats and actions that indicate a person is at serious risk of physical violence or emotional and psychological abuse;
- Occurring within different forms of domestic relationships, including heterosexual and same sex relationships, between family members or someone acting on behalf of the perpetrator; and
- It can occur between persons living together or living apart, within the home or outside the home and can be committed by both men and women.

Lee Housing Association follows a victim-orientated approach to domestic violence. This means that all reports will be dealt with sympathetically and in confidence. Victims do not have to take legal action (e.g. injunction) or contact the police before Lee Housing Association provides assistance. Any action taken will be with the victims consent.

Action You Can Take

- You should initially contact the police if the situation is serious;
- Report it to your housing officer as soon as possible. All reports of domestic violence will be investigated;
- You can contact specialist agencies who can offer useful advice to victims of domestic violence; and
- Make a record of events detailing what happened and when. This is vital if we need to take legal action.

Action We Can Take

Lee HA is committed to working with a wide range of local agencies to:

- Prevent domestic violence;
- Take action against people who inflict domestic violence on others;
- Support people experiencing domestic violence and others affected by it.

Any kind of domestic violence is a serious breach of Lee HA's Tenancy Agreement and we will take whatever action we can against residents who inflict domestic violence on others.

This action could include:

- Helping you to contact specialist agencies, so you can get advice and decide what you want to do;
- Involving the police if you give us permission to do so; and
- Evicting residents who have driven their partner away from their home by using or threatening violence, whether or not the victim was a tenant.

We would need to take into account the wishes of the victim and the strength of the evidence.

Specialist Support

It may be helpful for residents to contact specialist support agencies for advice. Agencies like Citizens Advice Bureau, Womens Aid, Refuge, the London Centre for domestic violence and Ashiana network can offer useful advice to victims of domestic violence.

Confidentiality

Your safety and privacy are our top priorities. We realise that every situation is different and that you are the one who can best decide what is right for you; We will do whatever we can to support you. However, if you discuss the option with us but then feel unable to take the matter further, we will fully respect your wishes. You can always come back to us if you change your mind.

Please remember that we will treat anything you say in the strictest confidence and we would not normally discuss your situation with another agency or anyone else unless you clearly asked us to do so.