



The sanctuary scheme

Helping victims of domestic violence
to stay in their own homes

Safer South Tyneside

About the sanctuary scheme

If the fear of domestic violence is making you think about moving, the sanctuary scheme could make it possible for you to stay living safely in your own home if the perpetrator no longer lives there.

The scheme is free and removes the fear of living at home by installing extra security to the property, which can include:

- Window locks
- New door locks
- Panic alarms
- Fire security equipment
- The set up of a sanctuary room, which acts as a safe room (where victims can call and wait for the Police). The door to the room will be replaced with a solid door, which can only be opened from the inside.

The sanctuary scheme is tailored to accommodate the needs and circumstances of each individual. A Crime Prevention Officer from Northumbria Police (in partnership with other services, such as the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, when necessary) carries out a risk assessment of the property and recommends the security measures needed.

Benefits of the scheme

- Ongoing support
- No need to move home
- No need to transfer children to another school
- No need to change address
- No need to change doctors, dentists and other services
- No need to move away from surrounding family and friends

Is the scheme suitable for you?

The sanctuary scheme may be able to help if you feel unsafe and unable to continue living in your home without the added security because of the risk of domestic violence.

You can be considered for the scheme if you own your own home or rent from either a private landlord or a housing association. If you rent, permission to carry out any work must be given by the landlord or housing association.

If you own your own home jointly with the perpetrator, you will need to seek legal advice. No work can be carried out on a property where the perpetrator has a legal right to live.

Applying for the scheme

To apply for the scheme, call one of these numbers and we will take you through the application process. They will also ask for your permission to pass on any information that is relevant to your application to the Police, Women's Aid, Children's Services and Victim Support. These services can also offer you additional support and advice.

To apply and for more information please contact:

Options:
(0191) 456 7577

Gateshead and South Tyneside Victim Support:
(0191) 477 8395

Housing Options Service (Homelessness)
(0191) 424 6456, (0191) 424 6457
or (0191) 424 6458

Domestic Violence Co-ordinator:
(0191) 424 7954 or (0191) 424 7331

Places for People (Women's Refuge):
(0191) 454 8257

Northumbria Police - Crime Prevention
03456 043 043 extension 65023

For more information, please refer to the contacts on the inside of this booklet, call our Domestic Violence team on (0191) 424 7954 or visit www.southtyneside.info/domesticviolence

If you know someone who would like this information in a different format contact the communications team on 0191 424 7385.