

Home shelter scheme



ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

Home shelter scheme

The Home shelter scheme has been set up to help people who have experienced domestic abuse to continue living safely in their own home. We offer an alternative when there appears to be little choice but to leave your home. We can help you by adding extra security measures to your home to make it more secure.

The Home shelter scheme can be beneficial because:

- Escaping an abusive partner, ex-partner or family member often leaves individuals and their families homeless.
- A homeless application to the council may lead to long stays in temporary accommodation.
- Moving to a new area, arranging new schools and nursery places for children, making new work arrangements and being further away from supportive family and friends can add to the stress already caused by domestic abuse.

Who is eligible for the home shelter scheme?

To be eligible you must have recently experienced domestic abuse and be a council tenant.

If you are a tenant of a Housing Association or renting privately, you must contact your landlord as they are responsible for carrying out these works.



What security measures can you add to my home?

We can tailor security measures to suit your assessed needs.



Referrals to the Home shelter scheme

Domestic abuse advocates and **tenancy officers** can refer you to us if they feel security measures are an appropriate solution. Or, you can phone the **Housing Solutions Team** on **020 7527 6053** to apply to the scheme. A **Housing Solutions Officer** will support you through the application process to make you and your home safe.



Types of property we can make more secure

For us to be able to make your home more secure, you must be **a tenant in Islington**. If you have a joint tenancy with the person who has been abusive towards you, we will only be able to make your home more secure if you have an injunction so that they can no longer enter the property.



Creating a safe room in your home

The security measures we can add include the following:

- Fitting smoke detectors and fire-proof letter boxes.
- A 180-degree door viewer.
- Fitting solid-core doors to the home shelter room and main doors to the property.
- Adding stronger door and window locks and stronger hinges.



Guide to the Home shelter scheme

1. You can apply directly to the **Housing Solutions Team** or be referred by a **Domestic Abuse advocate** or your **tenancy officer**.
2. If you are eligible for the scheme and would like security measures added to your home, a **Crime Prevention officer** and repairs operative will visit your home to carry out a security survey. This will take place within seven working days of you being accepted onto the scheme and an appointment will be made with you for this.
3. The Crime Prevention officer will send the security survey to the Housing Solutions officer.
4. **Islington Council's Repairs Team** will carry out the work.
5. A repairs operative will then make an appointment with you to fit the security measures to your home. (If no made-to-measure or unusual parts are needed, work should be completed within five to ten working days.)

Useful contacts

Solace Women's Aid

- (freephone) 0808 802 5565 / 020 3795 5070
- solacewomensaid.org
- advice@solacewomensaid.org

A variety of services including: Advice and Advocacy, Counselling, Children, young people and family services, Refuges, Sexual Violence Services (North London Rape Crisis) and support for women aged over 55.

Families First

- 020 7527 4343
- familiesfirst@islington.gov.uk

The service is designed to provide locally-based advice, information and help to the families who need it most by tackling difficulties early and stopping them from escalating.

National Domestic Helpline

- (freephone) 0808 2000 247. Open 24-hours a day

National Domestic Helpline provides confidential support and advice to women experiencing domestic abuse.

You have a right to live free from fear and violence.
In an emergency, call the police on 999.

Do you need this information in another language or reading format such as Braille, large print, audio or Easy Read? Please contact 020 7527 2000.



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homeshelterscheme@islington.gov.uk



020 7527 2000

www.islington.gov.uk/housing

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