



## CARE HOUSING ASSOCIATION MANAGING DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY

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| <b>Implementation Date</b>        | <b>29/01/2024</b>                            |
| <b>Created By</b>                 | <b>Rachael Kaminski (Operations Manager)</b> |
| <b>Last Committee Review Date</b> | <b>29/01/2024</b>                            |
| <b>Review Due</b>                 | <b>January 2027</b>                          |

### 1. Introduction

Care Housing Association (Care) aims to promote a safe and secure environment for our residents. We do not tolerate any form of abuse and will do all we can to prevent and respond to incidences of domestic violence or abuse. We will treat people fairly and equally, ensuring that any action is reasonable and proportionate. We will work in partnership with key stakeholders, including the police where a criminal offence may have taken place, to deliver these commitments and meet our responsibilities and corporate objectives. Victims of domestic abuse are at the heart of Care's response.

### 2. Key Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Care will provide its services as a Registered Provider and its responsibility to deal with domestic abuse and incidents affecting its customers with due regard to the relevant provision of the following:

- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Housing Act 2004
- The Social Housing (Regulation Act) 2023
- The Family Law Act 1996
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003
- Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- The Care Act 2014
- Clare's Law (also known as Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme)

This policy should be read in conjunction with Care's Antisocial Behaviour Policy and Procedure, Incident Policy and Procedure and Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.

### 3. Definitions

Care adopts the cross-government definition of Domestic Violence and Abuse: *any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.*

Care recognises that domestic violence and abuse is not always physical; examples can include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial abuse
- Online abuse
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage
- Honour based violence/abuse

This policy applies to any tenant who resides in any Care property (all of whom are over 16).

### 4. Aims and Objectives

All reports of domestic abuse will be treated seriously and in line with Care's Safeguarding Policy and Procedure and relevant legislation. We will respond to all reports of domestic abuse in a supportive, victim-centred way, ensuring tenants experiencing domestic abuse can access relevant services promptly. We will work with tenants, their families and support networks to stop any form of abuse.

Our main aim is to promote the welfare of all Care's tenants, particularly those who have experienced domestic abuse, by:

- Working with partner agencies to respond effectively to any cases of domestic abuse.
- Working with partner agencies to offer appropriate guidance to tenants.
- Working to ensure the safety of those affected by domestic abuse.
- Working to encourage tenants and partners to report any concerns to Care at the earliest opportunity.

We will also work with partner agencies to seek appropriate support solutions or criminal interventions for any tenants involved in perpetrating domestic abuse.

### 5. Equality and Diversity

Care is committed to respecting diversity in all aspects of our work and we will not tolerate any form of discrimination.

We recognise that domestic abuse can be experienced by and perpetrated by individuals across all protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010 and stereotypes bear no relevance to how we respond to incidents of domestic abuse.

Where we are made aware of or identify customers with specific needs, we will be proactive in targeting our communication and support appropriately and consider any specific needs individually.

**6. Responsibility, Commitment and Review**

The designated officer responsible for implementation and monitoring of this policy will be the Chief Executive. Care will formally review this policy every three years or as necessary dependant on best practice guidelines and legislative changes.