

Housing Briefing on DAHA Accreditation

11th January 2024

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance's (DAHA) mission is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process.

Housing Operations started working towards the DAHA assessment in June 2022, with the aim of achieving DAHA accreditation by December 2023. H&C were accredited in 2021 – for the whole of housing operations.

This briefing is to provide a summary of the work Housing Operations has carried out through the accreditation process and the Sustainability Plan we have for the future.

DAHA Accreditation

What is the aim of the DAHA accreditation?

- To achieve a **cultural shift** in response to domestic abuse survivors, and perpetrators, which is aligned with the DAHA principles and values, LBI CARE values and VAWG strategy.
- To support Islington Council to develop a **flexible approach** to enable people experiencing domestic abuse to access homelessness and tenancy services through multiple avenues.
- To ensure Islington Council make the **right response the first time to disclosures** of domestic abuse and **amplify the survivor's voice**.

It is a national programme of accreditation for social landlords, sets the standard for how we should respond to domestic abuse. It is the only project in the UK offering a domestic abuse accreditation for the housing sector.

DAHA accreditation was recognised in the government's Ending Violence against Women and Girls Strategy: 2016 to 2020.

By becoming DAHA accredited, Islington is taking a stand to ensure we deliver a safe and effective response to domestic abuse.

DAHA's 8 Priorities

Survivor-led Support

our organisation should **enable survivors to achieve emotional and physical safety in the home**, to enable safe **disclosure** and support, and to create emotional safety, **trust** and observe boundaries.

- Review of the Home Shelter Scheme
- Tailoring housing options support to survivors
- Flexible Funding grant scheme
- Emergency repair response
- Amplifying the survivor's voice

Intersectional and Anti-racist Practice

the accreditation examined how well we understand intersectionality, **our ability to recognise the discriminatory barriers within our own service and how to break these down.**

- Staff training
- Domestic Abuse Dashboard
- Accessibility & person-centred approach
- By & For Services sub-group

DAHA's 8 Priorities

Policies and Procedures

this includes **developing an overall housing domestic abuse policy and a refresh** of the council-wide staff domestic abuse policy and associated management guidance and showing that our procedures are **in place and embedded in practice**.

- New Housing Operations Domestic Abuse policy
- New set of Housing Needs & Strategy Domestic Abuse procedures
- Updated set of Homes & Communities Domestic Abuse procedures
- New Housing Needs & Strategy DSM procedure
- Worked alongside HR to update the Domestic Abuse Policy and Management Domestic Violence & Abuse guidance

Staff Development and Support

examining how our **staff are aware of domestic abuse and its impact on families**, what support we provide to staff, including supporting their own health and wellbeing, and our Learning and Development programme.

- Extensive training programme for staff
- Domestic Abuse Champions
- Staff Survey
- Reflective Practice

DAHA's 8 Priorities

Partnerships and Collaboration

our internal and external governance and leadership, collaborative culture, how we share information and our safeguarding response.

- Domestic Abuse Case Review
- Daily Safeguarding Meeting (DSM)
- Attending internal boards and forums
- Informing strategies and policies within the service on best practice

Safety-led Case Management

to ensure we are able to **identify when domestic abuse is occurring** and that this **information is recorded**, stored, managed and shared with partner agencies in a clear, factual and safe manner.

- Flagging of domestic abuse cases
- Case audit template
- Housing IDVA

DAHA's 8 Priorities

Perpetrator Accountability

an effective Coordinated Community Response will **hold perpetrators to account for their behaviour**. The accreditation expects us to adopt a **holistic response to perpetrators** alongside the support given to survivors and their children.

- Perpetrator training
- Incorporating our response to perpetrators within our policies on DA
- Collaboration with the VAWG team
- Liaising with Legal Teams

Publicity and Awareness Raising

making domestic abuse visible at each point of community intervention. When done effectively it will increase the ability to identify systemic problems and high-risk individual perpetrators and will **allow more survivors to identify the abuse they have experienced, to feel empowered and seek support**.

- Information leaflets for tenants and the public
- Electronic notice boards
- Raising awareness internally
- Fundraiser for local refuges

DAHA Timelines

Started in June 2022



Formal assessment commenced in August 2023



The formal assessment concluded on 6th December 2023



Outcome of DAHA assessment expected in January 2024



The Sustainability Plan

Sustainability Plan

Annual Review
of DA cases

Improving
Record-Keeping

Streamlining
data input &
Collection

Remove
systemic barriers
to access &
Support

Establish a
Domestic Abuse
Operational
Group

Be confident in
responding to
staff that
disclose DA

Develop a
Resident
Empowerment
Framework

Annual Staff
Survey

Improved
partnership
working

Develop a
"Working with
Perpetrators"
policy



Thank you.

Questions?