

What is a Sanctuary Scheme?

The scheme provides victims of domestic violence and hate crime a way to stay safe in their home and stop them from becoming homeless. It does this by providing improved home security. The Sanctuary Scheme is just one option available to victims of domestic violence. Information on the full range of domestic abuse services available can be found at: www.southwark.gov.uk

Why has the Sanctuary Scheme been set up?

If someone is being subjected to domestic violence, they should not be forced to leave their home and become homeless. Instead, the perpetrator of violence should be kept out of the home. The scheme is a positive response to domestic violence and is a close working partnership between Southwark Council, the Metropolitan Police, the Fire and Rescue Service and the major Registered Social Landlords.

What security measures does the Scheme provide?

Every Sanctuary Scheme is tailored to the needs of the individual, but may include all or some of the following:

- Extra locks and bolts
- Stronger doors
- Spy holes or chains for doors
- Better security lighting
- Police portable alarm
- A fortified safe room you can go to and wait for help from the police
- A Fire Safety survey via the Fire and Rescue Service. A Police Crime Prevention Officer will visit your home to recommend what safety measures are required.

Who can get help through the Sanctuary Scheme?

The Sanctuary Scheme is not limited to Southwark Council or Housing Association tenants, and includes any person who is threatened with homelessness because of domestic violence. However, you should:

- Live in Southwark
- Have been assessed as being at very high risk by a Police Domestic Violence Officer
- Not be living with the perpetrator
- Not already have been accepted as homeless by Southwark Council.

Useful contacts

Call Southwark Advocacy and Support Services (SASS) for further information on 020 7593 1290

Housing Solutions service
25 Bournemouth Road, Peckham Rye, London, SE15 4UJ
www.southwark.gov.uk