

Additional considerations for clients with a social tenancy fleeing domestic abuse and other VAWG strands

Considerations:

- Appropriate risk assessment complete e.g. DASH for DV. Dynamic ongoing risk assessment needed throughout process.
- Has a referral been made to specialist VAWG support e.g. IDVA/ISVA services, Rape Crisis Centres or specialist ending harmful practices services? If appropriate has a referral been made to MARAC?
- Has a safety plan been made?
- Are there any child/adult Safeguarding concerns?
- If the Perpetrator is still in the property has the housing provider initiated any actions, including, where necessary and safe to do so, eviction proceedings?

If your client accesses refuge/temporary accommodation it is important that they **DO NOT relinquish their tenancy** until they have written agreement they are to be rehoused. It is possible to apply for dual housing benefit for two properties.

Finding appropriate settled accommodation can take a long time, it is important to start thinking about settled accommodation options **ASAP**. This includes before or when a client first arrives in refuge / temporary accommodation. Expectations need to be managed that properties offered through transfer/reciprocals are those deemed suitable in a safe area (similar property size).

