

Access to the Pan-London Housing Reciprocal for women in the Criminal Justice System

Identification & screening

Women identified as vulnerable due to a current risk or previous experience of violence or abuse including domestic abuse, other types of VAWG, hate crime, serious violence related to gang activity as well as vulnerable to reoffending in their area (e.g. involved in prostitution or drug-related criminal activity)



Vulnerabilities assessment

Explore housing situation and risk of homelessness. Suggested questions:

- Do you or anyone you live with have a social tenancy with a council or housing association? Note: if woman is not the tenancy holder, explore whether the tenancy holder is the source of risk.
- Is it safe for you to return in your property or in your neighbourhood?
- If going to custody, how would you pay rent?



Report to Courts

- If woman has a social tenancy, highlight risk of homelessness due to property or neighbourhood being unsafe and Pan-London Housing Reciprocal pathway to retain social housing outside risk area
- Highlight risk of homelessness on release due to losing social tenancy while in custody



Referral

Probation officer or Community Liaison and Diversion team to fill out PLHR property request form accessible from <https://saferlondon.org.uk/plhr/> and send to housingreciprocal@saferlondon.org.uk.



Release or community sentence

- Safer London to liaise with applicant's landlord to request approval of referral.
- Nominating officer (i.e. point of contact for any property offer) can be any professional working with the applicant including Probation officer, Community Liaison and Diversion team, social worker, support worker or housing officer.

Custody sentence

- Safer London to liaise with applicant's landlord
- Request approval of referral including right to stay on the waiting list for a reciprocal move if tenancy is relinquished while applicant in prison
 - Identify professional who can act as nominating officer on release



Pan-London Housing Reciprocal process

Once Safer London received applicant's landlord approval, normal PLHR process to be followed:

- Safer London circulates property request to all housing partners (mentioning release date if in custody)
- If a property offer is made, nominating officer to support the applicant through relocation process
- If family members moving together, can move while woman is in custody
- Applicant will sign a new social tenancy in a safe borough