

Committee:	Cabinet	Date:	Thursday, 27 March 2025
Title:	Domestic Abuse Policy		
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Maggie Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Communities		
Report Author:	Carla Claydon, Communities Manager, CClaydon@uttlesford.gov.uk	Key decision:	No

Summary

1. The purpose of this paper is to outline UDC's new Domestic Abuse Policy.

Recommendations

2. To approve the Domestic Abuse Policy attached.

Financial Implications

3. There are no financial implications relating to the implementation of this policy.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.
 - None.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	This policy has been produced in collaboration with a range of internal partners and external stakeholders.
Community Safety	The Policy applies to all tenants, leaseholders, residents and employees of UDC as well as victims of domestic abuse, and those seeking assistance from UDC.
Equalities	Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion implications and risks: this policy does not differentiate and applies across the entire population of the district. (Further detailed information will be provided in the EqHIA)

Health and Safety	The Policy applies to all tenants, leaseholders, residents and employees of UDC as well as victims of domestic abuse, and those seeking assistance from UDC.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	<p>There are no immediate legal implications arising from this Report and approving the policy would contribute towards the discharge of the Council's statutory duties.</p> <p>The Policy adheres to the following legislative requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Housing Act 1996 which established it is not reasonable for a person to continue to occupy their accommodation if it is probable that this will lead to violence or domestic abuse against them or someone with whom they might usually reside or might be expected to reside. ▪ The Homeless Reduction Act 2017, which sets out the Council's duties to prevent and relieve homelessness.
Sustainability	Nil
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	None. This policy will be delivered and supported by existing staff members.

Situation

6. The Council does not have a Domestic Abuse Policy in place and proposes to adopt the draft Policy attached.
7. The Policy applies to all tenants, leaseholders, residents and employees of UDC as well as victims of domestic abuse, and those seeking assistance from UDC.
8. This policy is to be applied across the district and outlines:
 - a. Policy scope, key principles
 - b. Definitions of Domestic Abuse
 - c. Children as Victims of Domestic Abuse
 - d. Reporting
 - e. Action against Perpetrators

- f. Safeguarding
 - g. Partnership Working
9. The policy will support UDC to:
- a. Meet the current requirements of the Social Housing Regulator.
 - b. Meet current legislative and Statutory requirements.
 - c. Illustrate the Council's commitment to tackling Domestic Abuse and incorporate recognised good practise.
 - d. Assure residents that UDC takes domestic abuse seriously and has robust mechanisms in place to tackle/reduce such behaviour.
 - e. Inform victims, survivors and witnesses of their various support options and how to contact relevant agencies.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
<p>Not having a policy in place could present the council in a poor light and may appear to victims that the council does not take such matters seriously.</p> <p>Allow staff/Cllr to represent victims/survivors without any clear guidance: this could expose the council to unnecessary challenges, FOI request, complaints and damage the reputation of the council.</p>	3	3	Adopt the Domestic Abuse Policy.

- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
- 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
- 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
- 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.