**Launching the domestic abuse reciprocal agreement for social housing in Kent and Medway**

To following on from my email to social landlords on 27th February we held a webinar on 3rd April to outline how the scheme will operate. I am reaching out again to encourage participation from your organisation.

We are all aware of the devastating impact that domestic abuse has on survivors and their families.

The managed reciprocal scheme would enable individuals and families at risk of domestic abuse and who have a social tenancy, to move to a safe area in Kent & Medway whilst retaining their social housing tenancy.

The benefits of a reciprocal scheme are far reaching and include:

* Making best use of social housing stock
* Reduce the pressure on local authorities homelessness teams
* Provides a supportive framework for survivors and social landlords
* Increases housing options for survivors
* Prevents re victimisation through the loss of a social tenancy

This scheme is a formal collaboration between social housing landlords which will be coordinated by an independent agency (KCC, Domestic Abuse Coordinator). It also links and supports the wider Kent & Medway domestic abuse strategy.

I have attached the Memorandum of Understanding  (MOU) which will provide further information and I am of course happy to answer any questions that you may have.

I think you will agree that this scheme has the potential to have a real impact on the lives of survivors of domestic abuse in Kent & Medway.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

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Lisa Clarke

Head of Operations (Kent & Surrey)

