

Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Reciprocal Project

What is a domestic abuse reciprocal scheme?

A managed housing reciprocal scheme enables individuals and families who are at risk of domestic abuse or violence and who have a social tenancy, to move to a safe area whilst retaining their tenancy.

A formal collaboration between social housing providers to make better use of their housing stock and protect residents who are at risk of domestic abuse.

Provides a supportive framework which supports both victim/survivors and landlords.

Why do we need a reciprocal scheme?

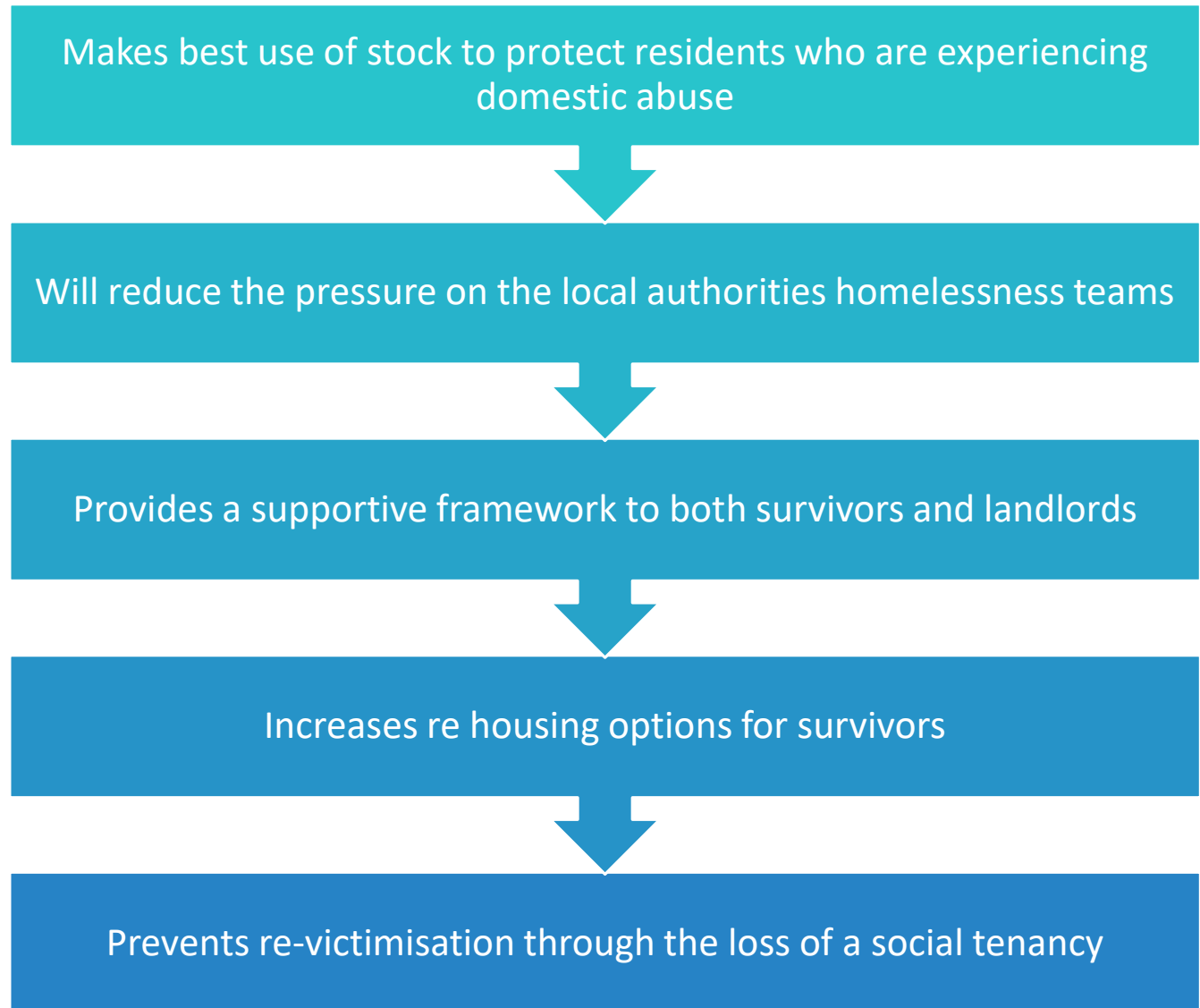
In areas where demand for social housing outstrips supply, survivors of domestic abuse risk losing their social tenancy in an effort to remain safe.

This loss is a re victimisation for the survivor – they lose their home through the behaviour of someone else and lose their social tenancy.

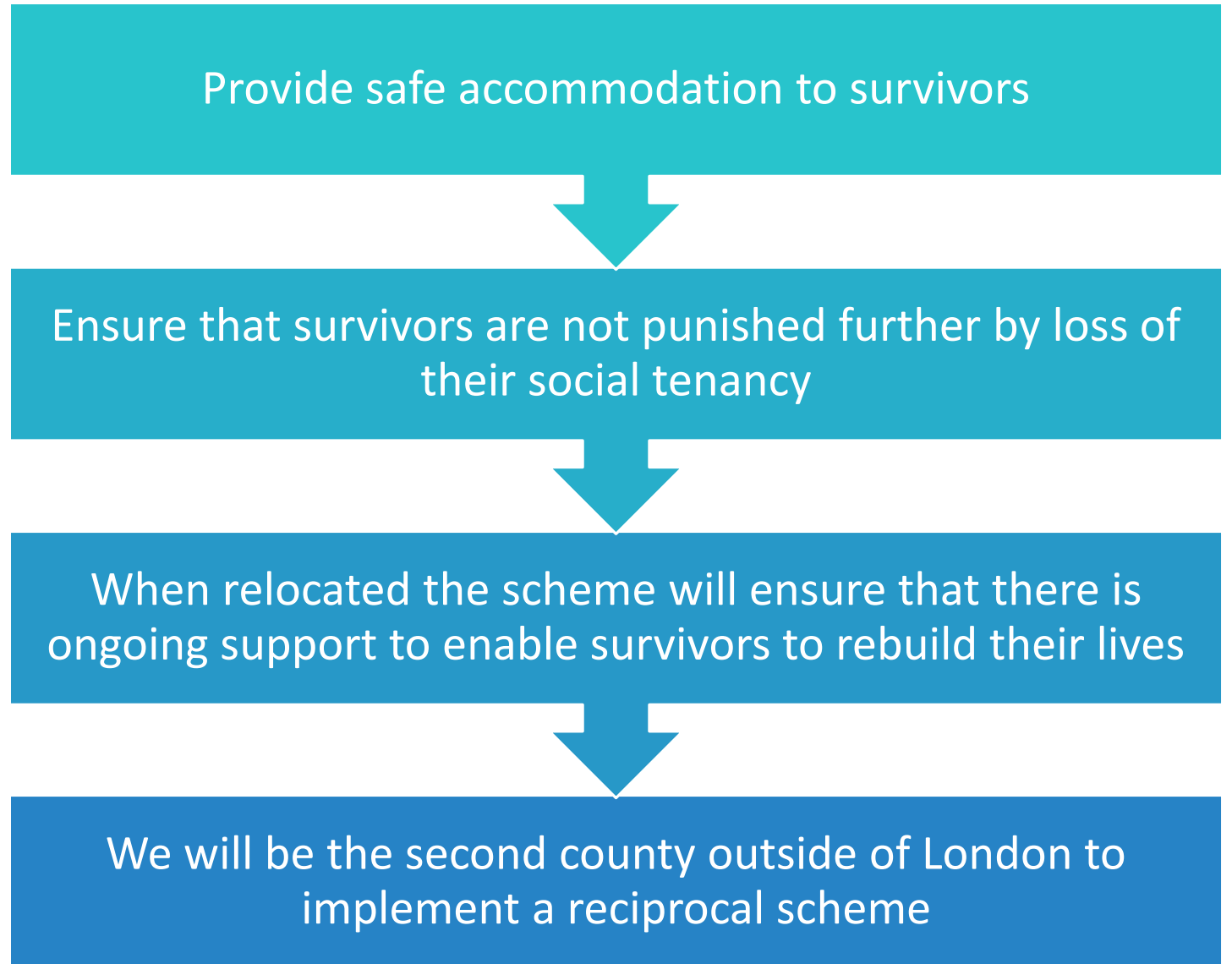
Sometimes the measures that we put in place to ensure survivor safety are not successful and there is a need to relocate.

Allows survivors to continue to access affordable and secure housing so that they can rebuild their lives.

How will this benefit?

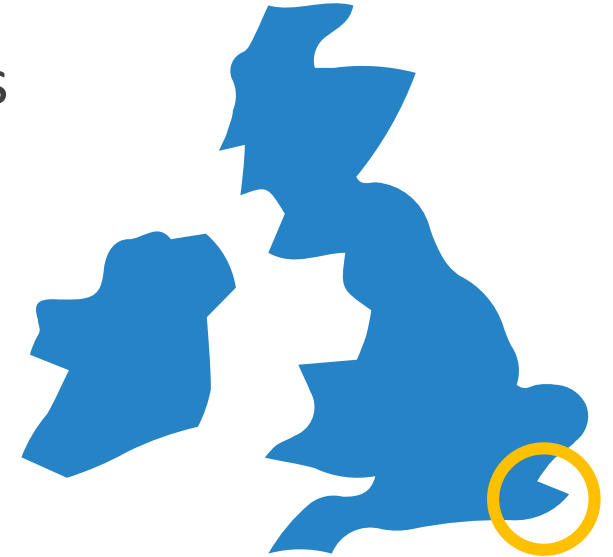


How will this benefit?



Understanding the local context

- We ascertained interest in the scheme from other providers
- We check to ensure there was no duplication
- We identify the specialist support services in the local authority
- Considered if the fear of losing a social tenancy act as a barrier for leaving?



Don't reinvent the wheel!



The Principles



Safety



Mutual Benefit



Partnership
Working



Fair &
Transparent



Cost Effective



Evidence
Generating

How will it work?

Referral

- Nominating Officer (professional supporting the victim/survivor) completes referral form clarifying unsafe/requested areas and sends to local coordinator
- Local coordinator contacts Landlord's Reciprocal Named Leads for approval
- If victim/survivor is not receiving support from a specialist domestic abuse agency, the Nominating Officer will offer a referral option

Request

- Local coordinator circulates new property requests via email to the housing partner's Reciprocal Named Leads who have stock in requested areas
- Reciprocal Named Leads respond in a timely manner (ideally two working days)
- Local coordinator re-circulates pending requests every fortnight until offer is made

Offer

- When a suitable property is identified, the offering housing partner contacts the Nominating Officer to discuss suitability of offer and arrange a viewing with the victim/survivor
- Nominating Officer keeps local coordinator informed of outcome

Move

- Nominating Officer supports victim/survivor to move and ensures support services follow-up in the new area or refers to resettlement support
- Local coordinator records move as successful in the partner's activity table
- After a successful move, the local coordinator requests feedback from the Nominating Officer and the victim/survivor

Practical considerations

- Who will act as a Local Coordinator?
- Are there any financial considerations?
- Who will oversee the scheme?
- What data do we want to obtain and what will it be used for?
- How will we work with the support agencies?



Specific housing considerations

- What is the criteria for applicants?
- How will we deal with arrears?
- How will we deal with overcrowding?
- How will we deal with differing tenancy types?
- What is the waiting time for a property?
- What if tenants have a joint tenancy?



Memorandum of understanding



- Rationale/Scope
- Partner Organisations
- Eligibility
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Commitments
- Governance
- Authorisation



How will we measure performance?

The local coordinator will transpose the information provided in the referral form; this data will be used to monitor the number of reciprocal transfers that have occurred

Data will be passed to KHOG and other relevant bodies within Kent to help shape support services

Quarterly review meetings will be held with the members of the project group quarterly for the first 12 months to make any necessary 'tweaks'



What does success look like?

Number of housing partners signed up to the scheme

Number of referrals and property requests circulated

Number of offers made

Types of properties and tenancies offered

Number of successful moves

Positive feedback from survivors and members of the scheme

Sustainability



Next Steps..

We will continue to promote the scheme through the Kent Housing Group.

We are happy to meet with individual organisation's to discuss any questions.

We will review the progress of the scheme in July 2023 and 6 monthly thereafter.

We will send you a copy of the MOU and slides and will be in contact.



Any
Questions?
