24-7 Locks Ltd – SAFER Scheme (Kent County Council)

Presentation to KHG 16-05-24

Who?

24-7 Locks Ltd

Birmingham-based provider of services aimed at Making Communities Safer
Master Locksmiths Association Membership – Designing Out Crime Qualified

What?

We provide Target Hardening/Sanctuary schemes. Assess and upgrade security in the homes of referred domestic abuse survivors. Service includes discussion and advice on home security.

Where?

Across the country
West Midlands/Leicestershire/ Northamptonshire/Kent/Suffolk/Cambridgeshire & Peterborough/Greater Manchester/Merseyside
On behalf of Metropolitan/City/District/Borough/County Councils
And Police Forces

Why?

Improve home security for referred Clients.
Reduce risk of further offences.
Enable survivors of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes.
Why should the survivor move? Surely if anyone is moving it should be the perpetrator?
Physical security improvements – Allows recipient of service (and family) to feel safer and more secure at home with numerous beneficial knock-on effects in terms of better sleep patterns, health and well-being.

Cost Saving for Authorities/Housing Providers:

Reduces need for temporary accommodation/re-housing.

SAFER SCHEME:

Eligibility Criteria

- Individual being referred is aged 16 or over and is a victim/survivor of domestic abuse.
- Victim/survivor is **not** living in temporary or emergency accommodation (Bed and Breakfasts, hotels etc).
- Perpetrator does not live in the property (does not freely enter or exit the property at any time during the day or night, perpetrator does not stay in the property overnight).
- Perpetrator does not have legal access to the property.
- Victim or survivor has a need to stay in the local area.
- The referrer has identified that the SAFER Scheme is the most appropriate and safest type of support for the individual and this has been agreed by the victim/survivor.

Pathway:

Referral Form – filled in by Professionals and sent to Victim Support.
Victim Support check form and forward to 24-7 Locks.

Bookings:
24-7 Locks contact referred Clients within 24 hours (1 working day) of receipt of referral.
Appointment at earliest convenience.

Home Security Visit:
Discussion with Client re security concerns.
Security Assessment from perimeter of property inwards.
Assessment leads to a combination of security upgrades - chosen to provide appropriate and cost-effective security on a case-by-case basis.

Products fitted may include:
Perimeter – lighting/cactus strip/recording devices/signage
Primary Security - Locks
Secondary security – window alarms/window restrictors/door chains/letterbox restrictors
Products fitted **SAME-DAY.**

Fittings:
Do not in any way cause alteration or structural changes to property.
All fitted products conform to industry recognised standards (British Standard as a minimum).
Fittings carried out in line with externally audited Health & Safety processes.

Funding:
The SAFER Scheme was set up by KCC after a period of extensive research into requirements, best practice and budget.
The scheme is funded by KCC and is provided at **no cost** to those referred into the scheme or their Housing Providers.

Timeframes:
It is incumbent upon all stakeholders to assist in providing an efficient and speedy service.
This leads to security upgrades being carried out rapidly and therefore the Clients' situation being alleviated in the shortest possible timeframe.

Blanket Consent:
Service to be carried out with the consent of homeowner/landlord/housing provider.
In order to facilitate fast turnaround of service it is incumbent upon Housing Providers to provide blanket consent (and advance consent) for this essential service to take place for Tenants who have unfortunately become involved in domestic abuse scenarios.
Blanket/Advance consent negates the requirement for consent to be sought on a case-by-case basis.

The Consent Form has been made available by KCC and we would urge all Housing Providers to get on board and assist the efficiency and swift case turnaround of the SAFER Scheme.
And thereby help survivors of domestic abuse to remain and become SAFER in their homes.