

Monday, 13 November 2006



Press Release

Improving Housing Advice Services for Victims of Domestic Abuse in Devon

The Devon Strategic Housing Group (DSHG) has developed a Code of Good Practice that sets out what help victims of domestic abuse and organisations working with victims can expect from council housing advice and homelessness services in Devon.

The catalyst for the development of the Code came from the 2005 Against Domestic Violence and Abuse in Devon (ADVA) Survivors' Conference, which highlighted differences across Devon in the way housing services were provided.

The Devon Homelessness Managers' Group worked with a wide range of organisations, which support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, to develop the Code of Good Practice.

The Code of Good Practice will be launched during Domestic Abuse Regional Awareness Week and will be available for download on the DSHG website www.dshg.org.uk.

Graham Davey, Homelessness Champion for the Devon Strategic Housing Group said "This document will mean that the Local Authority Homelessness Departments across Devon are working consistently and to the same set of principles. This will help avoid scenarios where victims are receiving different levels of service depending on where they approach for help".

Devon County Councillor Jill Owen, Chair of ADVA, said: "We welcome the development of a Code of Good Practice which will provide further access to support for people experiencing domestic violence.

"Housing is a very crucial element in the services often needed by victims of domestic abuse, and this Code will mean that everyone will receive the same high level of support regardless of where in Devon they live.

"Devon is nationally recognised for its excellent work across different agencies to combat domestic violence - a crime that affects one in every four women and one in six men in their life time."

-Ends 125-06-

Notes to editors

1. Katy Shorten, Devon Homelessness Coordinator for Devon Strategic Housing Group can be contacted on 01752 307574.
2. Devon Strategic Housing Group is a strategic partnership of all the Devon Housing Authorities working to improve the delivery of housing in Devon (www.dshg.org.uk).
3. ADVA is the Against Domestic Violence and Abuse in Devon Partnership (www.adva.org.uk).
4. Domestic Abuse Regional Awareness Week is week beginning 20th November 2006.
5. The Devon Homelessness Managers Group is a sub group of the Devon Strategic Housing Group working towards consistent homelessness services in Devon.