

Sanctuary Scheme Overview

1. West Sussex Sanctuary Scheme - Purpose

The **West Sussex Sanctuary Scheme** is a **multi-agency, survivor-centred initiative** that provides physical security measures, safety equipment and one-off practical support to help victim-survivors of domestic abuse remain **safe in their current accommodation** or to relocate to **new, safer housing**.

The scheme supports:

- Provision of **enhanced home security** to reduce risk of repeat victimisation.
- Provision of **practical safety items**, including safety equipment, personal alarms, and digital security where appropriate.
- **Transport or emergency relocation** costs to help households move to new, safer accommodation.
- **Emergency measures** that delay or prevent a perpetrator's access to the property, or support time to wait safely for emergency services.
- Support survivors across **all risk levels**, regardless of police involvement.

It forms part of a broader **community safety and homelessness prevention offer**, ensuring survivors are not forced to flee their homes unnecessarily and can access support in a way that is **trauma-informed, fast, and effective**.

2. Eligibility Criteria

An application may be considered if all the following apply:

1. The applicant is a **resident of West Sussex**.
2. The individual or household is at risk of **domestic abuse**.
3. The proposed measures will enable the individual or family to:
 - Remain safely in their accommodation, **or**
 - Access or maintain **alternative safe accommodation** (e.g. via transport or temporary security support).
4. **Consent** has been given by the survivor for the referral and any required information sharing.

5. Where appropriate, **landlord permission** has been sought for physical alterations to the property (may not be required for all items).
6. Other suitable funding sources have been **explored or ruled out**, and the Sanctuary Scheme is the **most appropriate and proportionate** response. **See Appendix A for further information.**

If the individual or family is being supported by **statutory services** (Adult or Children's Social Care or housing department has a duty) costs associated with safeguarding the person or family will fall to that statutory service or appropriate funding avenues.

- The exception to this being where increased home security is required (i.e. ring doorbells or CCTV).
- In some exceptional circumstances a sanctuary scheme application can be made by a statutory service for other items. For example: if particularly high costs will be incurred to achieve or maintain safe accommodation, then a contribution to these costs can be requested and considered from the sanctuary scheme.

3. Scope of Funded Items

The scheme funds **reasonable and proportionate physical security measures**, including but not limited to:

- Replacement locks (to British Standard)
- Window and door locks and restrictors
- Door viewers, hinge bolts, letterbox shields
- Ring doorbells or in some cases CCTV, subject to risk assessment and data protection compliance
- Anti-shatter film, security lighting
- Personal alarms
- General safety equipment
- Security Safe Partnership survey and installation of items **where risk justifies**. **See Appendix B for further information.**

The scheme will also consider ad hoc accommodation costs in line with local housing team procedures and statutory duties (i.e. short-term B&B placements and rent deposits in some circumstances).

The Community Safety Team will have ultimate responsibility in approving whether items or measures requested are proportionate and meet the scope of the scheme.

4. Key Principles

- It helps survivors, in the widest sense, access or maintain safe accommodation.
- Sanctuary Scheme applications are ideally accompanied by domestic abuse support to provide a package of support to maintain safe accommodation.
- Those who have no recourse to public funds can apply to the Sanctuary Scheme.
- The application process is straight forward and does not require evidence of the abuse experienced.
- Safe accommodation can be across all tenure types (social housing/private rented, Refuge and private ownership).
- Applications are made via a support worker/professional working with the individual or family.
- The support worker is required to explore **all other appropriate funding avenues** before approaching the Sanctuary Scheme.
- The Sanctuary Scheme will be used where other sources of funding are not available or where applications to other sources have been turned down.
- If other avenues are available to be used ahead of application to the Sanctuary Scheme this will be advised to be completed before the application can be considered.
- There will be a quick response to applications (best practice within 48 working hours).
- The Community Safety Team at WSCC will aim to update non-statutory agencies when the fund is running low to avoid disappointment for applicants and factor in additional planning for professionals.
- Some data will be recorded for the purpose of understanding the needs of West Sussex residents at risk of/and experiencing domestic abuse.

5. Referrals

- Application forms will be submitted via https://westsussex-self.test.achieveservice.com/service/Sanctuary_scheme.
- Correspondence can be made via sanctuary.scheme@westsussex.gov.uk.

- Target for response is 48 working hours.
- Once item(s) and/or measure(s) have been provided, a follow-up evaluation questionnaire will be sent to the victim-survivor at a later date.

Appendix A – Local Alternative Support Schemes (to be explored before applying)

Location	Provider	Scheme	Items Awarded	Criteria	To Apply / More Info
Crawley	Crawley Homes (Crawley BC)	Repairs Service Sanctuary Scheme	Property inspection, extra lighting, key chains, closing letterboxes, panic room, Lifeline emergency button	Crawley BC tenants only	Housing team (internal referral if tenant)
Crawley	Crawley Homes (Crawley BC)	Tenancy Support Fund	Ring doorbells	Crawley BC tenants only	Housing team (internal referral if tenant)
Adur & Worthing	Adur & Worthing Councils	Housing Options Support	Assistance to remain in home or move out of area	Based on housing risk or homelessness threat	Contact Housing Options team
West Sussex	Southern Housing	Housing Support	Home security improvements (unspecified)	Tenants at risk of domestic abuse	Contact Southern Housing directly
West Sussex	Saxon Weald	Housing Support	Safety measures and housing advice	Tenants at risk of domestic abuse	Contact Saxon Weald Housing Officer

Location	Provider	Scheme	Items Awarded	Criteria	To Apply / More Info
West Sussex	Clarion Housing	Domestic Abuse Response	Emergency accommodation, remove perpetrator, home move, personal alarms, locks, lighting, direct-dial police phone	Tenants at immediate or ongoing risk	Contact Clarion Housing support team
West Sussex	Hyde, Guinness, Stonewater, Worthing Homes	(Individual responses vary)	Support for tenants at risk of abuse (may include locks, alarms, moves)	Tenancy-based, discretionary	Contact provider housing officers directly
Countywide	WSCC	Household Support Fund	Food, utilities, essentials	Low-income households incl. care leavers, carers, disabled, NRPF	Apply here
Countywide	The Three Oaks Trust	Individual Grant	Basic furniture, clothing, education costs, disability equipment, household items	Must be known to professional for 12+ weeks; all other funds exhausted first	Application Guidelines Request Form

Location	Provider	Scheme	Items Awarded	Criteria	To Apply / More Info
Countywide	Buttle Grant	Chances for Children Grants: They are designed to support a safe and nurturing place to develop and grow up in.	Grants to of up to £2,400 for children and young people impacted by recent crisis to provide items and activities.	A professional must apply on behalf of the family Apply for a Grant - Buttle UK	Apply for a Grant - Buttle UK
Countywide	Glasspool	The Flexible Frontline Fund	Baby needs (equipment and clothing) Beds, mattresses, and bedding (including sofa beds) Clothing and school uniforms Cookers Fridges, freezers, or fridge-freezers Washing machines Furniture	No restriction on who can apply	Glasspool Grants - Glasspool