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**Ref No:** EQ600496407

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**Officer Name:** Tony Hobby

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**Title of report:** Housing Services – Domestic Abuse Policy

**Report :** This policy applies to all Council tenants, leaseholders, temporary licensees and occupants.

The policy sets out how we will provide a supportive response that helps reduce risk and enhance safety and will do this by leading a culture that takes the subject seriously, with staff who have a positive, non-judgmental attitude.

**What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.:** Published data - e.g Census, State of Ipswich report

**Service area:** Tenancy Services

**Corporate Manager:** Gaviin Fisk

**Corporate Manager email:** gavin.fisk@ipswich.gov.uk

**Links to supporting documents where available:**

**Please upload any supporting documents:** Draft Domestic Abuse Policy Mar 24 for EQIA.docx

**What is proposed?:** The introduction of this policy will reinforce the Council's organisational culture; where it is understood that anyone can experience domestic abuse. We aim to provide a supportive response to our tenants and other occupiers of our properties, that helps reduce risk and enhance safety

**Why are the changes being introduced?:** To ensure Ipswich Borough Council are compliant with the Regulatory Consumer Standards.

**What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?:** Analysis of ONS dataset - Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2023  
Research conducted by Women's Aid

**How will this change be implemented?:** The implementation of this policy will be supported by updated processes and procedures, in consultation with Customer Engagement Panel, staff

training and awareness raising.

**Age:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** Statistics show that younger age groups (16-30 years of age) have the highest incident rate for victims of domestic abuse.

**Disability:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** Research has shown that disabled women are more likely to experience domestic abuse and that women with disabilities also encounter differing dynamics of domestic abuse, which can include more severe coercion, control and abuse from carers. There are also additional barriers to support for disabled people.

**Marriage & Civil Partnership:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The policy is equal to all those affected and is not related to a persons marital or civil partnership status.

**Race:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** Women from ethnic minority backgrounds also face additional challenges in escaping domestic abuse. There may be challenges associated with language barriers and difficulty in accessibility of information on services and supports

**Pregnancy & Maternity:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** Pregnant women and new mothers may be more impacted, as evidence shows pregnancy as being a particular point of risk and trigger for domestic abuse. Research also shows that existing abuse may get worse during pregnancy or after birth.

**Religion or Belief:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** People of different beliefs or religions can experience additional challenges, that can compound domestic abuse and make it more difficult to escape.

**Gender Reassignment:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** People transitioning from one gender to another face challenges in terms of accessing information and support, stigma and fear of disclosing.

**Sex:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** Domestic abuse is a gendered crime, with women predominantly the victims of domestic abuse and men typically the perpetrators.

**Sexual Orientation:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** LGBT+ people may face additional challenges due to barriers in accessing support and information, such as stigma and fear of disclosing information on sexuality.

**I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives:** I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives

**The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s):** .This Policy demonstrates the Council's approach to equality for its tenants with no unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

**The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s):** :This policy is a positive document that seeks to improve outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse

**The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s):** :It promotes awareness amongst staff and gives tenants confidence about the support available from the Council for survivors of Domestic Abuse.

**The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s):** :Policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if there are changes in relevant legislation.

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