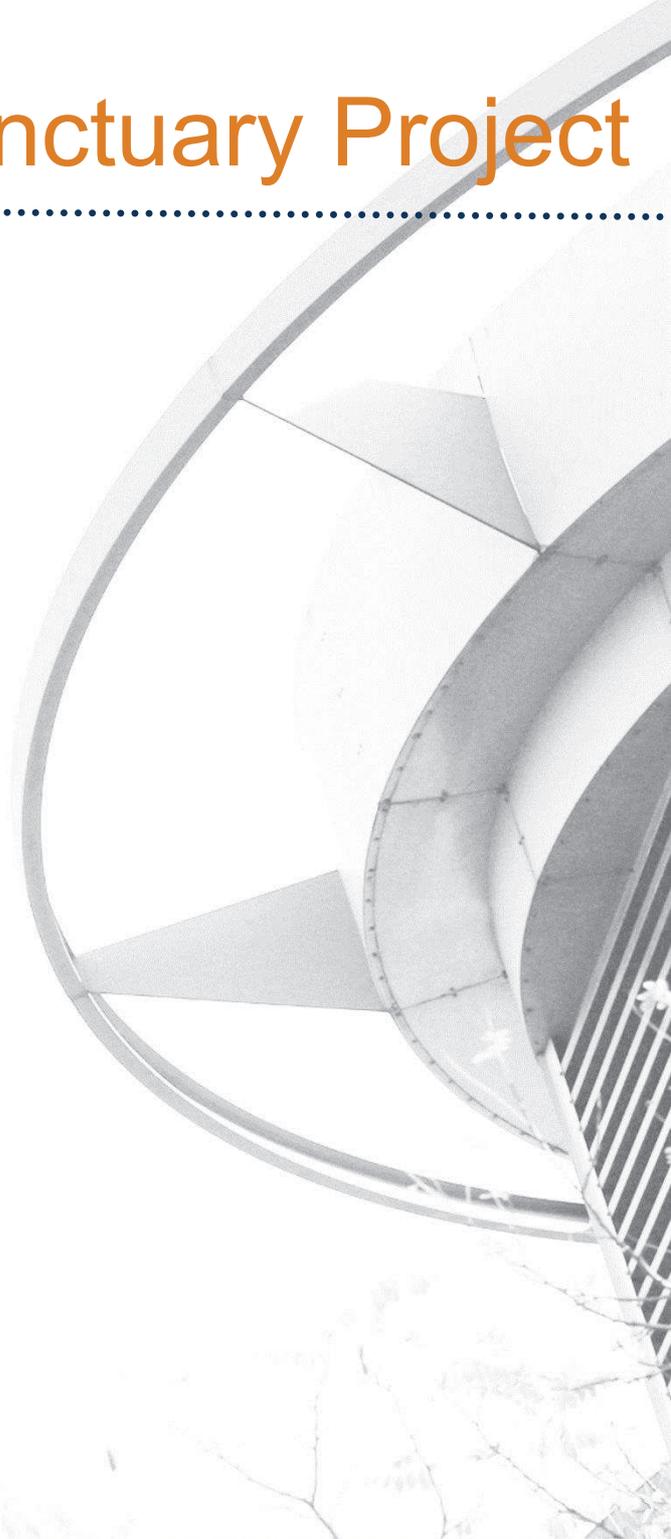


# The Sanctuary Project

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# The Sanctuary Project

Many victims of domestic abuse, harassment, stalking and other personal offences are reluctant to leave their home and support networks following incidents perpetrated against them. Moving is a big upheaval and not always practical due to disabilities, children, education, employment, support networks, etc.

Basildon Borough Council's sanctuary project is a victim centred initiative which aims to protect clients who have been victims of domestic abuse, harassment and/or neighbour nuisance to enable them to reside safely in their home. We consider referrals from all tenure types – social housing, owner occupiers and private renting. These referrals are usually made via Essex Police, the council's antisocial behaviour team, Changing Pathways or other support agencies.

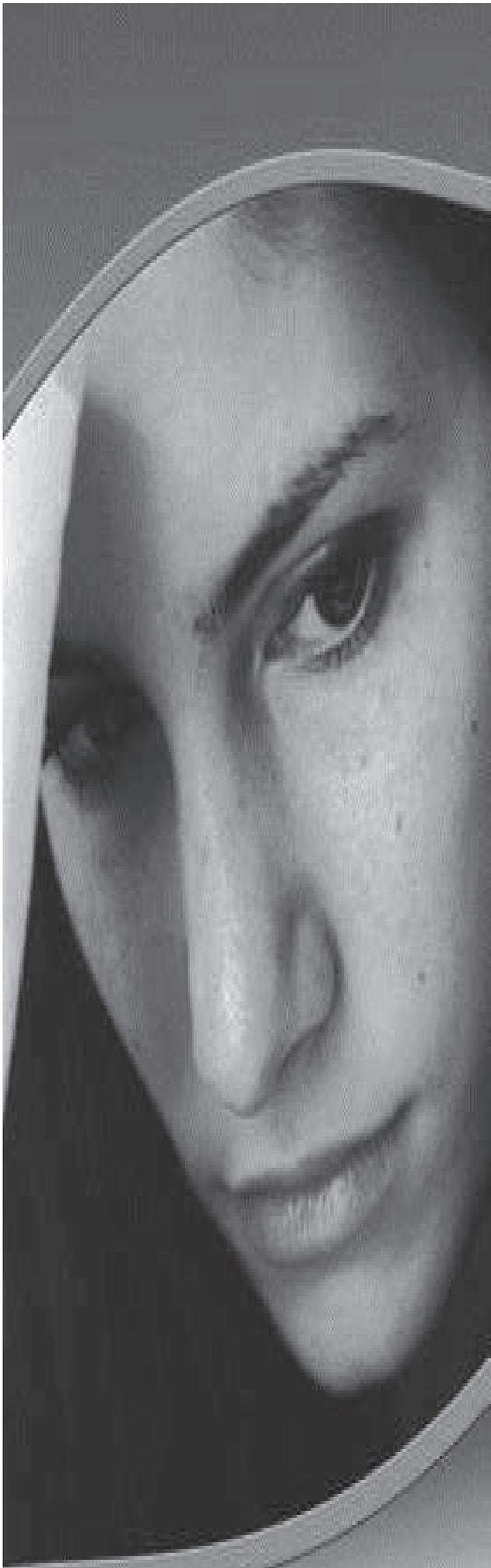
The Sanctuary Project has been adapted recently to enable the council to assist people who are the subject of stalking or harassment in accordance with the new criminal legislation.

When a referral is agreed, the council utilise specialist contractors to attend the home with a view to upgrade or change locks, add alarms or provide other specialist security measures where suitable for the property. This allows for greater property security, peace of mind, prevents homelessness and reduces repeat victimisation.

## Sanctuary Scheme Criteria:

- The perpetrator does not reside at the property or have a legal right to reside at the property
- The property is available for the victim's continued occupation
- Permission is granted by the landlord. Some of the local housing associations implement their own sanctuary / security measures so it may be prudent to contact your social landlord.
- The victim intends to continue to reside at the property for the foreseeable future and has legal right to do so
- Without the works the victim is at risk of further abuse or incidents and homelessness

There is no cost to the victim for utilising the sanctuary scheme. Once a referral is made, Basildon Council will contact the referrer and the client to discuss the referral and enquiries with other agencies such as Essex Police. Once agreed the council's contractor will contact the victim to arrange for works to be carried out as soon as practicable.



For more information or to discuss referrals please contact Basildon Council Housing Options Sanctuary Scheme on:

01268 206726