

Council: Tuesday, 4 November 2014 (item 14.2)

**Motion:** Councillor Tom Davey

Protecting residents from domestic violence

Amendment: Councillor Reema Patel

Delete all after second sentence and replace with:

Council notes that it is their duty, not just to re-house those experiencing domestic violence of a serious nature, but also to take steps to prevent domestic violence from taking place and that access to housing is vital in supporting the prevention of domestic violence.

Council also recognises that it must not force domestic violence applicants to make themselves homeless but must provide them with advice about their housing options including their choice whether to be assessed under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996 which requires the council to advise them of their rights under the Housing Allocations Scheme or to apply through the Part 7 homelessness route to be placed in emergency accommodation.

Council also believes that for those who do choose to take the Part 7 homelessness route to be placed in emergency accommodation our housing policy should not force them to the back of the queue for permanent housing because of the criminally violent behaviour of someone else.

Council therefore calls for LB Barnet to:

- continue to ensure that all housing applicants are given the options and advice they need to make the housing choice that is right for them
- withdraw their proposal to strip those experiencing domestic violence of their Band 1 priority on the housing waiting list after placing them away from danger in emergency accommodation
- ensure that all those placed in emergency or temporary accommodation as a result of domestic violence retain their Band 1 preference for permanent housing.

Substantive motion to read:

**Council abhors domestic violence and notes the severe and sometimes life-long impacts it has upon victims. Council recognises it has a duty to help safeguard against abuse, protecting those at risk and supporting efforts to prosecute perpetrators.**

**Council notes that it is their duty, not just to re-house those experiencing domestic violence of a serious nature, but also to take steps to prevent domestic violence from taking place and that access to housing is vital in supporting the prevention of domestic violence.**

**Council also recognises that it must not force domestic violence applicants to make themselves homeless but must provide them with advice about their housing options including their choice whether to be assessed under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996 which requires the council to advise them of their rights under the Housing Allocations Scheme or to apply through the Part 7 homelessness route to be placed in emergency accommodation.**

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*Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.*