

Job Title: Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (Housing)

Reporting to: Service Manager

Service: Tower Hamlets SASS

Location: Tower Hamlets/Hybrid

Salary Band: 2.1 – 2.2

Hours: 37.5 hours per week

This job description may change to reflect changing requirements of the role

The Role

The post holder will be acting as the housing lead for Tower Hamlets SASS a service which supports victim/survivors of domestic and sexual abuse in Tower Hamlets.

As the Housing IDVA you will lead on all housing-related work within the SASS team. You will carry out risk and needs assessments, safety planning and support planning with survivors who present at Tower Hamlets Housing and advocate on their behalf. You will work closely with Tower Hamlets Housing colleagues, and support their training and awareness of domestic abuse and the project.

This role will be located between Tower Hamlets Housing and Tower Hamlets SASS office.

Accountabilities

- To lead on housing within Tower Hamlets SASS
- To hold a caseload of cases with complex housing issues for short-term IDVA support.
- Meet survivors face to face, including accompanying to appointments and court.
- Co-locate within Tower Hamlets Housing, acting as a link worker between the Tower Hamlets SASS team and Tower Hamlets Housing staff
- Work proactively with Housing staff, offering advice and guidance on individual cases and pathways for survivors
- Provide monthly training sessions to Housing staff, including induction and refresher sessions on DA awareness and increasing understanding of the referral pathway.

- Provide risk assessment, safety planning and support to survivors of domestic abuse who present at Tower Hamlets Housing Services
- Represent the team and advocate for domestic abuse survivors at key Housing meetings in the borough
- Improve awareness of domestic abuse within the Housing team through training and awareness raising
- Improving knowledge of housing issues within Solace team
- Oversee and participate in the collection of data and to support the Service Manager in ensuring the accurate and timely reporting on all key service delivery targets.
- Work in close collaboration with the Service Manager to deliver services to those experiencing domestic abuse in the Tower Hamlets borough
- Deliver IDVA/Casework ensuring that contractual requirements are met, defined service standards are maintained, and compliance with policies and procedures
- Keep and maintain accurate and confidential records of all work undertaken
- Ensure compliance with all legal and contractual reporting requirements in relation to service delivery
- Ensure effective implementation of Solace's Equality and Diversity policies and awareness and integration of an equalities and human rights agenda in all your work
- To support on Duty on a rota basis

Values, Behaviours and Competencies

- **Committed** to the purpose of Solace Women's Aid, ensuring that the service user is at the heart of service delivery and development
- **Feminist** in understanding 'Violence against Women and Girls'
- Committed to fostering **innovation** and **continuous improvement** in working practice
- **Flexible** and open to new challenges, ideas and experiences, and able to be self-reflective
- Committed to understanding **diversity** and ensuring **anti-discriminatory** practice is applied in all forms of our work
- **Non-judgemental** with a commitment to self-care within the team
- **Collaborative**, building relationships with internal and external partners.

Knowledge, Experience and Skills

- Demonstrable substantial experience of working with women affected by domestic and sexual abuse
- A strong understanding of housing options and related legislation
- Demonstrable substantial experience of supporting women affected by domestic and sexual abuse navigate housing options.
- A sound understanding of the practical, emotional, social and economic issues facing women and children affected by domestic violence
- Experience of risk assessment and management and safety planning
- Experience of working within a multi-agency framework
- Knowledge of, and the ability to, confidently advise on the range of options available to survivors of domestic abuse including safe housing, criminal justice and civil remedies
- Essential sound knowledge of safeguarding for adults and children
- Ability to manage own caseload, working under pressure and prioritising workload
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong crisis management skills and the ability to deal with challenging situations.

Qualifications

CAADA /Safe Lives/Women's Aid IDVA, DAPA or housing-related qualification is desirable or being willing to complete an accredited training.



Team Structure

