



**Epping Forest
District Council**

HOUSING SERVICES



The Epping Forest Sanctuary Scheme

What is a Sanctuary?

Sanctuary Schemes help families to stay in their homes if they have become victims of domestic violence or hate crime. The security of the home is improved through a variety of measures. Schemes like this are running successfully in a number of areas across the country.

Our Sanctuary Scheme is for people who normally live in within the Epping Forest district. It was set up set up by the Council's Housing Services, and group members of the Crime and Disorder Partnership.

How does a Sanctuary work?

A Sanctuary Room is created to provide a safe room in the home. With your agreement a number of security measures are provided, such as internal fire doors, additional locks into the premises and fire fighting equipment. You will also be provided with a mobile phone, if you have not got one, and a contact point so you can call the Police in an emergency.

Does it matter where I live?

To qualify for the Scheme, you must be living in the district of Epping Forest. The Scheme is available to homeowners, occupiers, council tenants, housing association tenants and people living in private rented accommodation.

How can I make a Sanctuary application?

You must contact the Homeless Prevention Team at the Housing Needs section of Epping Forest District Council. The Team's contact details are given at the end of this leaflet.

How will my application be dealt with?

If you want to make a Sanctuary application, we will start by arranging you an interview with a Homeless Prevention Officer. These staff are experienced in dealing with clients who have problems with domestic violence or hate crime. During the interview a decision will be made on whether the application should progress further. This decision is made with our Housing Needs Manager.

If we continue with your application, all personal detail will be dealt with in a confidential manner. Housing Services, Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue will hold your personal details.

Officers from these organisations will visit you at your home to carry out an assessment of your property. They will work in partnership with you to make sure everyone is satisfied that a safe sanctuary can be provided. You will then be asked to sign a form agreeing whether or not the application should proceed.

How do I find out more on a Sanctuary Scheme?

If you want to find out more about the Sanctuary Scheme in Epping Forest District, please contact:

Homeless Prevention Team
Housing Needs section
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
High Street
Epping, Essex
CM16 4BZ

Tel: 01992 564000

Email: housingneeds@eppingforestdc.gov.uk