



Chartered  
Institute of  
Housing



## Press release

7 June 2016

# Colchester Borough Homes joins national campaign to tackle domestic abuse

- Colchester Borough Homes sign Make a Stand pledge launched by Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance and Women's Aid
- Pledge includes four commitments for housing organisations to make to help people experiencing domestic abuse

Colchester Borough Homes has signed up to a new national campaign to help it tackle domestic abuse in communities across Colchester.

The Make a Stand campaign centres around a pledge which has been developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA).

It consists of four commitments which housing organisations can make to support people that live and work in housing who are experiencing domestic abuse.

**Karen Williams, Head of Housing Management said:** "We are proud to be supporting the Chartered Institute of Housing's excellent campaign. This pledge reinforces our commitment to supporting people who are affected by domestic abuse.

"We recognise how significant the problem is in local communities and across the country and we want to do our part in making a stand. We will continue to work hard to tackle this important issue."

**Alison Inman, CIH president, said:** "I'm thrilled that Colchester Borough Homes has signed the Make a Stand pledge as this could make a very real difference in local communities.

"Domestic abuse is one of the biggest problems we face today. Millions of people are affected and two women a week are being killed by their partner or ex-partner.

"Housing organisations house and employ millions of people and it is our duty to do more to tackle this issue. These are our homes, our people and this is our problem.

“By signing the Make a Stand pledge Colchester Borough Homes has committed to supporting people in its communities and it is no exaggeration to say that this could save a life.”

**Kelly Henderson, co-founder of DAHA, said:** “We are very proud to be part of this pledge and commend Colchester Borough Homes for signing up. We know the housing sector plays a crucial role in recognising and responding to domestic abuse and this pledge is a really easy way to not only demonstrate commitment but also take the first practical steps to improving the response for both staff and residents.”

**Katie Ghose, chief executive of Women’s Aid, said:** “For thousands of women and children across the country, their home is the most dangerous place they can be.

“By signing up to the Chartered Institute of Housing’s Make a Stand pledge, Colchester Borough Homes has sent out a powerful message to survivors of domestic abuse that they are not alone and that there is help and support available to them.”

Make a Stand was launched as part of CIH president Alison Inman’s presidential appeal and Jim Strang has already agreed to continue to support the same cause when he takes the helm in September.

Organisations can sign the Make a Stand pledge on CIH’s website and receive a support pack and other information to help them put the commitments in the pledge in place.

The four commitments are:

- To put in place and embed a policy to support residents who are experiencing domestic abuse
- To make information about national and local domestic abuse support services available on your website and in other places which are easily accessible to residents and staff
- To put in place a HR policy and procedure on domestic abuse, or to incorporate this into an existing policy, to support members of staff who are experiencing domestic abuse
- Appoint a champion in your organisation to own the activity you are doing to support people experiencing domestic abuse.

For more information visit [cih.org/makeastand](http://cih.org/makeastand)

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to editors:**

For interview opportunities or for more information contact Steve Hayes on 024 7685 1788 or 07432 692 688 or email [steve.hayes@cih.org](mailto:steve.hayes@cih.org)

**The Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)** is the independent voice for housing and the home of professional standards. Our goal is simple – to provide housing professionals with the advice, support and knowledge they need to be brilliant. CIH is a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation. This means that the money we make is put back into the organisation and funds the activities we carry out to support the housing sector. We have a diverse membership of people who work in both the public and private sectors, in 20 countries on five continents across the world.

**Women's Aid** is the national charity working to end domestic abuse against women and children. Over the past 44 years, Women's Aid has been at the forefront of shaping and coordinating responses to domestic violence and abuse through practice, research and policy. We empower survivors by keeping their voices at the heart of our work, working with and for women and children by listening to them and responding to their needs.

We are a federation of over 180 organisations who provide just under 300 local lifesaving services to women and children across the country. We provide expert training, qualifications and consultancy to a range of agencies and professionals working with survivors or commissioning domestic abuse services, and award a National Quality Mark for services which meet our quality standards. We hold the largest national data set on domestic abuse, and use research and evidence to inform all of our work. Our campaigns achieve change in policy, practice and awareness, encouraging healthy relationships and helping to build a future where domestic abuse is no longer tolerated.

The 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline on [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247) (run in partnership with Refuge) and our range of online services, which include the Survivors' Forum, help hundreds of thousands of women and children every year.

**DAHA** - Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance's (DAHA) mission is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process. DAHA is a partnership between three agencies who are leaders in innovation to address domestic abuse within housing; Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (STADV), Peabody and Gentoo. Launched in September of 2014, DAHA embeds the best practice learned and implemented by its three founding partners and has established the first accreditation for housing providers.