



**GREEN VALE HOMES**

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**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN**

**GREEN VALE HOMES**

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## 1. Policy statement

- 1.1 Green Vale Homes recognises that relationship breakdown is a significant cause of housing difficulty, and can lead to a range of different housing problems. The association is keen to develop a sensitive and appropriate response to tenants suffering relationship breakdown, and to deal effectively with the resource and management implications for the organisation of relationship breakdown amongst our tenants.
- 1.2 Green Vale homes will offer whatever assistance it can to tenants and their partners undergoing relationship breakdown. This policy applies to both heterosexual, and lesbian and gay couples.
- 1.3 In cases of relationship breakdown, Green Vale Homes will generally seek to offer just one unit of accommodation, but concessionary offers may on occasion be made.
- 1.4 Green Vale Homes will therefore:-
  - Be particularly sensitive to the needs and wishes of tenants and their partners suffering relationship breakdown.
  - Offer sufficient flexibility to respond to the varied and often complex circumstances of individual households, which will include married and cohabiting couples, households with and without children and same sex couples.
  - Take account of the likely range of household and related problems associated with relationship breakdown, including; legal issues, housing management issues and financial issues.
  - Facilitate prompt or emergency responses in cases of domestic violence (see separate policy on domestic violence)
  - Ensure optimum efficiency in managing its housing stock, and in preventing rent loss, whilst taking account of Green Vale Homes policy on equal opportunities, in responding to households experiencing relationship breakdown.
- 1.5 Where domestic violence is a feature of relationship breakdown, Green Vale Homes will work with relevant agencies and support providers, in order to provide an appropriate response to the needs of the tenant and their family.
- 1.6 Where there are children involved, the aim will usually be to accommodate the adult with whom the children are resident. Where possible this will be

achieved using housing management mechanisms (for example, by encouraging an assignment of the tenancy). In all such cases advice and assistance will be offered to the outgoing partner, to help them find alternative accommodation.

## **7. Review**

This policy will be reviewed, when appropriate in line with the Company's commitment to continuous improvement, including the need to reflect any changes in legislation or good practice.

## **8. Responsibility for this Policy**

Policy Development and Monitoring	Board
Implementation	Head of Housing Management Services