

# The experiences of women who have survived domestic abuse with temporary safe accommodation

In 2023, we spoke to women who had survived domestic abuse about their experiences accessing, living in and moving on from temporary accommodation in England.

## Challenges

A **lack of accommodation** and **complicated processes** were the main reasons survivors struggled to get into and move on from temporary accommodation. Not feeling **involved in decisions** or having clear **information** about their options also made things difficult.

Accommodation with no CCTV and other **security measures** did not feel safe for survivors, which made recovery difficult.



It was the way they stepped in, the staff at the refuge... Take the reins for a while.



## Things which worked well

Survivors felt safer when they were **listened to and believed** by support staff, and when staff considered their **individual needs and circumstances**.

Survivors preferred staying in refuges, as they were often **clean and tidy**, with enough **space** for them and their children, and easily accessible **emotional support**.

## Survivors' recommendations for the future:

- Organising support and accommodation that takes women's individual needs into account.
- More accommodation with facilities that support day-to-day living.
- Access to mental health support in all accommodation, both while you are living there and after.



For more information and to access the full report go to:  
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