

## **Appendix 3**

### **Summary of Points from Meeting with Bristol Women's Commission and Sisters Uncut, 8th February 2017**

The Women's Commission stated that proposals do not go far enough for women and referred to the motion with cross party support around moving survivors of domestic abuse in to band 1 for housing priority. It is felt that the policy does not reflect this nor does it address move on from refuges/safe houses

The Women's Commission and Sisters Uncut raised concerns about the use of MARAC as the route for band 1 recommendations. It was highlighted that time to discuss each case at MARAC is very limited and there is not always complete follow up on each case. It was proposed that Nextlink should also be able to recommend cases for band 1 outside of the MARAC process

Homechoice processing times need to be speeded up for priority applicants. This is being implemented

Proposed that the 3 month time period be extended up to 6 months where appropriate for individual cases. This had been raised by the Cabinet Member for Homes as the preferred way forward

There was discussion regarding direct offers and whether this would be suitable for survivors – may have its place on a case by case basis

It was proposed and agreed that training should be delivered to Housing staff on DVA and delivering a good quality and supportive service to survivors

It was highlighted that survivors should not be required to tell their story several times to different officers and that there should be lead officers in Housing Options that have specific knowledge and understanding of DVA and the impact on women and children

Recognised that communication with stakeholders could be managed better particularly in regards to policy development and consultation at an early stage of policy development

Consideration needs to be given to homeswaps for victims that have fled their home and to having a prioritisation panel (look at South Gloucestershire model)

Progress is being made on bringing empty homes and buildings in to use and on working with private landlords to improve housing supply