

## Hints and Tips when Engaging with Tenants who Perpetrate Violence

The tables provide information on tips and strategies a CHP can use to intervene when/if there are indications that a tenant is perpetrating violence.

### UNDERTAKING A BRIEF EVALUATION OF THE FOLLOWING MAY INDICATE THE POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE.

Understanding the tenant's history of violent behaviour both within and outside the household may assist CHPs to determine the level of risk for potential DFV.

Life changing stressors such as recent separation or divorce can increase the likelihood of violence.

Sudden irregularities in tenants maintaining their tenancy - rent payments, an increase in property damage, neighbour disturbances.

Being mindful of abusive physical and verbal behaviours and attitudes of the tenant that support violence towards women. Blaming the victim for his resultant behaviours.

Sudden changes in a tenant's circumstances such as unemployment or recent bereavement can also exacerbate the potential for violence. If a perpetrator's previous coping strategies were based on needing to feel in control, such behaviour may be externalised towards the victim.

A resistance to change behaviours that are impacting negatively on the perpetrators family is an indicator of the family being at risk. Providing information to a Men's Referral Service may assist.

## **CHPs CAN UNDERTAKE ALTERNATIVE INTERVENTIONS TO DECREASE THE RISK OF VIOLENCE IF A REFERRAL TO THE MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE IS NOT TAKEN UP.**

Provide the tenant with an information pamphlet on the Men's Referral Service in case he chooses to explore this option in the future.

Explore alternative referrals such as a Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS). Such a strategy reinforces the safety of the family and assists him with alternative housing options.

Apply the CHP's risk management processes if there is reason to believe women and children are at risk and the perpetrator has chosen to return to the family home.

Undertake a safety check of women and children – refer to the Strengthening Practice in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence – A Toolkit for Community Housing Providers.

Undertake a child protection notification if there is concern for the well-being of a child with consent of the victim unless risk to her and / or her children is indicated.  
Contact the police where there is a risk of harm / disclosures / threats.