

We are working together with Sanctus to support victims of domestic violence.

"It is amazing to have a stock of phones ready for people who come through the door with absolutely nothing." Sarah, Sanctus.

For one woman suffering from domestic violence, her phone was a lifeline when her home wasn't safe. During what was an extremely distressing time for this individual, the Essex based charity, Sanctus, helped to safeguard her from her abuser and the device donated by Tesco Mobile allowed her to stay connected to the charity, as well as friends and family who could provide support.

Mobile phones can play a vital role within situations of domestic violence. Devices are often used as a method of digital control by domestic abusers, and in some cases, a victim's phone might even be taken from them and used as police evidence, meaning the vulnerable individual is left with no means of safe communication.

Sanctus offers a safe day centre for vulnerable people and allows them to take positive next steps with 1-2-1 mentoring, assistance with applications for tenancies and benefits, and wellbeing support. Tesco Mobile Reconnects has donated mobile phones to the charity, giving people connectivity at a time they need it most. We spoke to Sarah Coppin, a tenancy sustainment officer from Sanctus, to find out how digital connection has helped people supported by the charity:

"Smartphones are a basic human need that so many people don't have access to. On average, about 70 people pass through the doors at Sanctus every day, and everything these vulnerable people need to do to get them in a better place is online. It is amazing to have a stock of phones ready for people who come through the door with absolutely nothing." Sarah Coppin, Sanctus.

We help a lot of charities like Sanctus, supporting people fleeing from domestic abuse and in need of a place of safety. It is imperative that victims have access to a phone to start their new life and a lack of secure connection can pose a real problem for these individuals. Not only does digital connection bring us closer together, but it connects us to essential services. At Tesco Mobile, we care for human connection, and this is what drives us. Through our Reconnects mission, we're connecting vulnerable people to society by donating devices and data-loaded SIM cards to community organisations.

So far, Tesco Mobile Reconnects has donated over 27,000 devices, over 28,000 SIM cards and 1.7million GB of data to charities and organisations across the UK. Our care for human connection continues as we aim to help more vulnerable and disadvantaged people reconnect to society.

Organisations or charities can find information on requesting devices or SIM cards at:

tescomobile.littlehelps@tesco.com.