

Meeting: Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee

Date: 10 November 2016

Title: Safe Places

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Service: Adult Social Care

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Safe Places initiative in North Tyneside.

2. Recommendations

- (1) The Committee to note implementation progress of SAFE Places in North Tyneside.
- (2) Committee members to raise awareness of the scheme in their respective ward areas and / or organisations.

3. Details

3.1 Introduction to Safe Places

A Safe Place is any building in the community such as cafe, shop, bank or church where any vulnerable person can go to for initial help and support.

The Safe Place scheme is for individuals who may feel unsafe or vulnerable when they are out and about. For example, the individual has a learning disability, or they are living with dementia or have issues with their mental health. If this is something that makes the individual feel vulnerable, they can sign up to use Safe Places.

All Safe Places display the Safe Place logo and staff at the building will have had a 30 minute information session which explains why we need a Safe Place and what their role is within the Safe Place project.

Safe Places have agreed to welcome a vulnerable individual into their premises and make a phone call for them to an individual they know and trust. Alternatively if the person using Safe Places just needs a few moments to gather their thoughts and return to a calmer state, the businesses have agreed that this is also ok.

As a member of the Safe Place scheme, the individual will receive an information card and key ring. The member will add their name to the information card and the telephone numbers of two people they trust. It is important that these two people know their number may be used as they may be contacted if the individuals ever uses the Safe Place scheme.

3.2 How the Safe Place scheme works

Step 1:

If an individual ever becomes anxious, afraid or upset, they will look for a place that displays the Safe Place window sticker or use a mobile App currently being developed.

Step 2:

The individual will go inside and ask for help and show the staff their information card or key ring.

Step 3:

The Safe Place will ring the agreed contact person (one of the contact numbers) or the Police if they needed to.

3.3 Product Development

The Safe Places website is located on the SIGN North Tyneside website <http://www.sign-nt.co.uk/>. This explains what Safe Places is as well as holding information leaflets in and a list of Safe Places in North Tyneside. This list is updated on a monthly basis.

An App is in the process of being developed, the app will give people the ability to find a Safe Place “on the go” and based on their current location.

3.4 Safe Places to date

We currently have 91 Safe Place venues with more venues planned. 30 Safe Places are North Tyneside Council Buildings, this shows the commitment North Tyneside Council has made to the project. The remaining Safe Places consist of buildings like shops, building societies, coffee shops and Estate agents.

3.5 Individuals who may use a Safe Place

There are 71 individuals who have signed up to use a Safe Place in the past 2 months. The number of individuals who will benefit from using Safe Places will increase rapidly following a wide distribution of the information leaflets through various organisations as well as the Project Officer visiting organisations such as Adult Learning Alliance, LD North East and Age UK.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 - List of Safe Places

Appendix 2 - Safe Place leaflet

5. Background Information

Not applicable.