



SaferMK Partnership Discussion and Decision Report

Subject: Safe Places

Report Author:

Colin Wilderspin Head of Community Safety, Tel: (01908) 254533

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To endorse a new scheme called the Safe Places scheme to be rolled out across Milton Keynes through the Safer Neighbourhood's Group.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the scheme and to allow the initiative to be rolled out across Milton Keynes over the next 6 months be endorsed.

3. Comments from Scrutiny Management Committee

- 3.1 The initiative was discussed at a previous Community Safety, Police and Crime Committee, and was well supported at the March 2015 meeting.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Safer Places scheme is part of a wider "Respect me" campaign which aims to improve the experience of people in the community who have a learning disability, physical disability, mental health condition, sensory impairment, or an older person who may have memory loss, however this scheme is designed to be inclusive to anyone in Milton Keynes.
- 4.2 This has already been rolled out in places such as Oxford, Eastleigh and Cumbria, and we are looking to do the same in Milton Keynes and its surrounding areas.
- 4.3 Safer Places provides members of the public with a safe place to go if they have been bullied or harassed or feel vulnerable or afraid.

- 4.4 How it works;
- 4.4 Shops put up signs to say that they are a 'Safe Place'.
Vulnerable people carry cards with two contact numbers on.
- 4.5 If they need help, they go in and just have to show the card, and staff will call one of the numbers on the card, or the Police, if necessary. They look after the person until the help arrives.
- 4.6 People can pick the cards up at various places such as parish councils; Mind and Age UK might also be appropriate organisations to hold them.
- 4.7 All staff at a recognised Safe Place centre is provided with a Safe Place Guide which gives information on how to deal with different illnesses and disabilities, the correct terminology to use and hints and tips for good communication.
- 4.8 It has been agreed that the scheme will first be rolled out in the Woughton Ward area and Stony Stratford. Meetings have already been held with suitable safe place location in these areas.

5. Implications to SaferMK Partnership

- 5.1 It is expected that this scheme will enhance individuals' perception of safety and offer suitable safe places for those who feel threatened. The scheme will be aimed to enhance the work of SaferMK partners. A small fund £1500 has been set aside in the Safer Neighbourhood's Group fund to support roll out and relevant literature.

6. Other considerations / Key Partnership Involvement

- 6.1 It will be important for partners and other key partners such as Age UK to be involved and support the programme.

7. Attachments/Background Papers

Presentation to be provided at the SaferMK Partnership meeting