

Safer Stockton Partnership Board & Stockton Vulnerable Adults Committee

“KEEP SAFE” WORKGROUP report August 2013

Since April the group have been looking at how to get a **SAFE PLACE** scheme established in Stockton.

Residents of Stockton with a learning disability had learnt about schemes in other towns and wanted a similar scheme where they lived to encourage them to live independently and safely in our town.

Members of the **Vulnerable Adults Committee**, the **Safer Stockton Partnership Board** and the **Stockton Learning Disability Partnership Board** also felt that they would support a scheme in Stockton.

- **Safe Place** Schemes have been developed in many towns and communities by their local Police forces and Community Safety teams to prevent and respond to disability hate crime and anti social behaviour incidents targeted at residents with learning disability or autism.
- People with learning disabilities are very unlikely to complain to the Police or statutory agencies when they are victims of anti social behaviour or crimes. Some tragedies have been reported in the national media when the abuse has escalated unrecognised by communities leading to the death of the vulnerable adult. We want to prevent that happening here if possible.
- We have commissioned, via the Learning Disability Partnership Board, **Inclusion North** to help develop a **Safe Place Scheme** in Stockton and across the whole Cleveland force area for people with learning disability or autism, to learn from national best practice and to engage with large organisations.
- A number of safe place schemes around the country and in the north east are now using this national symbol which will be used in Stockton and across Tees.
- A **Safe Place Launch** has been arranged with Inclusion North for ;

**Thursday 17th October; at 10 am -12
At ARC, Dovecote Street , Stockton**

All members of the Committee are welcome to attend and we hope their organisations would join the scheme.



How do they work ?

- People with a learning disability or autism (or other vulnerable adults) often carry a **membership card** when they are out and about.
- If they need help or feel unsafe they look for a place showing the **Safe Place** sign, show the staff their card and ask for the help they need.
- They may be frightened of someone following them or bullying them, they may have had their phone stolen or lost it and need to ring someone. They may be feeling unwell and want to contact their family or support workers.

What would we expect the Safe Place to do?

- We would expect the staff to recognise the card when shown to them and to reassure the member of the scheme that they would ring the emergency contact on the persons card.
- In most cases it would be the emergency contact person who would help the individual in distress to seek appropriate help from the Police or local anti social behaviour team not the safe place staff.

What do we need to make this happen in Stockton ?

- We need organisations to agree to become Safe Places, to train their staff and to display the sticker.
- We need the Neighbourhood Police , Community safety team and housing providers to brief their staff about the scheme and to respond appropriately to contacts about anti social behaviour and crimes against people with learning disability and autism.
- We need to tell people with learning disability or autism living in the Borough about the scheme in a variety of ways, as well as their support services, housing provider, families and a community wide publicity campaign.
- We need to design and print and circulate, stickers, leaflets and cards.
- We need to establish ways to monitor and evaluate the Safe Place Scheme.
- We need to consider whether to extend the scheme in the future to other vulnerable groups.

Appendix 1

Consultation with Inclusion North

As residents with a learning Disability, what would we like in Stockton?

- In Stockton we would like to use the national symbol and colours.
- In Stockton we would like to have **Safe Places** in each of our town centres, Stockton, Billingham, Thornaby, Norton, Yarm, Teesside Park where we shop.
- In Stockton we would like to have **Safe Places** where we go for fun, like the ARC, Cinema, Forum, Pavilion, Splash, Community centres, Libraries and sports clubs.
- In Stockton we would like **Safe Places** in some of the shops and cafes we use and work in like, Sainsburys, Tesco, McDonalds, Caffé Nero and charity shops.
- In Stockton we would like **Safe Places** in some council offices and Tristar Housing offices that are near where we live.
- In Stockton we would like the Buses to be **Safe Places**.
- In Stockton we would like Thornaby manned station to be a **Safe Place**
- In Stockton we would like to start with **Safe Places** for people with learning disability or autism and then see if it would be helpful to people with dementia or other problems that made them vulnerable.
- In Stockton we would like to let the **Community Safety** team know about each time someone needed to use the scheme so they can deal with anti social behaviour in our town.
- We would like Stockton to be part of a **Safe Place** scheme across the Tees area because we travel around the area.