

SUBJECT:	<i>Safe Place Scheme</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Councillor Trevor Egleton – Portfolio for Healthy Communities</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

This paper provides an overview of the Safe Place Scheme that has been established in parts of South Bucks.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

N/A

3. Content of Report

The Safe Place Scheme was initially introduced to the District in 2012. The scheme was put in place as part of the countywide Safer Bucks Plan with the aim to provide reassurance to vulnerable people and their carers, or people who find themselves in challenging situations. The scheme assists vulnerable people to live more independent lifestyles and obtain help when they are out in the community.

Buckinghamshire Community Safety Partnership's main aim was to build a network of suitable venues, such as local shops and restaurants, where someone can go for help and assistance across Buckinghamshire.

A countywide Task and Finish Group has been established to support the roll-out to new areas. Members of the group include representatives from Adult Social Care and BuDS (Buckinghamshire Disability Service) who are helping to raise awareness of this initiative to their users.

Burnham was the first high street to be signed up in July 2012. The scheme is now in place in Beaconsfield, Gerrards Cross, Holtspur, Iver, Iver Heath and Richings Park.

What is Safe Place?

The scheme helps a vulnerable person deal with any incident that takes place in the community – for example, assisting a confused older person, or providing support to someone who has been harassed. Above all, the scheme aims to help vulnerable people lead independent lives and feel safe in South Bucks.

Some vulnerable people not in receipt of care or supervision often find it difficult to live independently; this scheme aims to provide reassurance for users of the service, as well as to their families and carers, that they have a means to alert someone if they are out alone and require assistance.

Although the main aim of the scheme is to provide reassurance for the more vulnerable members of the community who may need assistance, it is also available for anyone who is feeling unsafe, unwell, or has had a fall etc.

How does the scheme work?

A 'safe place logo' window sticker designed to help identify the scheme identifies the premises as a safe place. Vulnerable persons needing assistance can access these places when required to gain assistance.

Scheme members are given a card to show they are part of the scheme and the card will identify who they are and who their emergency contact is. (However, it is not a requirement to have the card to be able to access this service)

The Community Safety Partnership is working to identify safe places and raise awareness of the scheme in the community. To set up a scheme a member of the Community Safety Partnership visits a premises and explains the purpose of the project. If they agree to joining the scheme they receive a door sticker/ laminated contact card and an information sheet and the company details are added to the District website and partners and residents are advised on the new safe place location.

What are businesses expected to do?

If a vulnerable person seeks help, members of staff would be expected to make a phone call if necessary, reassure them and provide a temporary safe haven until help and support arrives.

Businesses that wish to sign up to the scheme must have two or more employees on the premises at any given time in order to handle situations presented to them while still being about to maintain business as usual.

Businesses will receive a list of contacts so that the employees know who they can contact if a vulnerable individual presents themselves. By signing up to the scheme, businesses will be providing reassurance to both users of this service and their carers, enabling individuals to be more independent.

The Community Safety team has recently been approached by libraries and GPs surgeries requesting to join the scheme after successful and very positive engagement with a vulnerable resident who asked for support after seeing the Safe Place logo on the door.

4. Consultation

N/A

5. Options

All options should be identified and explored with a justification for the preferred option. This needs to relate back to the recommendation.

6. Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;

3.1 *Financial - None*

3.2 *Legal - None*

3.3 *Crime and Disorder – this work forms part of the work within the Chiltern and South Bucks Community Safety Partnership Plan.*

7. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Safer Communities - being safe, feeling safe

Health and Well-Being - healthier, happier and longer lives

Cohesive and Strong Communities - strong, confident and active communities

8. Next Step

Members to note the report and support future roll out across the District.

RECOMMENDATION

Members to note the report and support future roll out across the District.

Background Papers:	None
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