



SAFE SPACES PROJECT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 13/19

10 FEBRUARY 2020

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to consider nonfinancial support for a relatively new Project developing designated Safe Spaces and access to them.

No. DETAILS

1) THE PROJECT

- a) The Safe Places project is based on the idea that everyone should be able to go out and feel safe – and is targeted at Adults with Learning Disabilities and is part of a national network of Safe Place projects.
- b) Shops and cafes on High Streets are asked to display a Safe Place poster in their window – and if someone with a learning disability is feeling scared or lost they can call into the premises, show the shop assistant their Safe Place card, which has the name and contact details of a family member or carer on it, and the shop assistant will contact them. There is a phone app that shows the location of the nearest Safe Place.
- c) On the Isle of Wight, Safe Places is being promoted by People Matter, a disability charity. They have already started distributing Safe Place cards to Adults with Learning Disabilities on the Isle of Wight and begun a scheme in Newport. They are hoping to expand to other towns on the Island.
- d) For businesses to participate in the project, they need to attend a short training session run by People Matter that explains how the scheme works, and to be prepared to display the Safe Places poster in their shop window.
- e) Ventnor would be an ideal location for expanding the scheme – the Town has a compact shopping area and there is likely to be interest in supporting the scheme from local businesses. The Town Council office could be a Safe Place along with other town centre premises.
- f) The Community Development Officer would promote the idea to local businesses, particularly cafes, through social media and direct contact, arrange the training at the Green Room and monitor progress. It may also be worth promoting the Safe Place idea to doctor's surgeries and Ventnor Library.

2) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to:
formally support the Project and ask its Community Development Officer to progress it.