

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Economic and Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING	25 September 2014	
TITLE:	Community Safety: Safe Places Scheme (formerly Community Safety Zones) update	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The report updates the Panel on the 'Safe Places Scheme' – formerly known as 'Community Safety Zones' for adults with learning disabilities. The report has been prepared by Yoursay Advocacy.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Panel receive the report
- 2.2 That the Panel identify any questions arising from the report

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this update report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Relevant considerations include equalities, crime & disorder and human rights.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 In 2006 Bath and North East Somerset commissioned Your Say Advocacy to support adults with a learning disability to come together to have a more significant collective voice in their community. These groups became known as the B&NES Networks for people with learning disabilities. Very early on it was

established that one of the key factors affecting the lives of people with learning disabilities was the fear of Hate Crime when out and about in the community.

- 5.2 As a result the Networks sought to find ways to support people with learning disabilities who wanted to feel safer when out and about and began working with local Police. We also started to chart the experiences of people with learning disabilities experiencing Hate Crime. Well over half of the people we spoke to with learning disabilities had experienced Hate Crime at some time both of quite a low level and or a more serious nature – but few ever reported it to the Police. For many people with learning disabilities this was a regular feature of their life.
- 5.3 In 2007 Network members went off to Sheffield to a conference for people with learning disabilities about Hate Crime and we came back with the idea of Community Safety Zones – safe venues across the community where people with learning disabilities can go if they feel afraid or experience Hate Crime when out in the community – somewhere where staff will have had some training, can help the individual report their experience and assist them in getting home safely. From 2007 – 2013 we worked with lots of partners across B&NES to set up Community Safety Zones across Midsomer Norton and Radstock, Keynsham and central Bath.
- 5.4 In 2013 Avon and Somerset Police sought to set up ‘Safe Places’ force wide – essentially the model of the ‘Community Safety Zones’ - we happily shared with the Police our resources and experiences and supported them in the production of accessible information and resources. This was a great endorsement of the Community Safety Zone project and lent the weight of the Police to the project – it also means that people with learning disabilities can now travel across the whole of Avon and Somerset and know that they can have the same confidence that there is somewhere safe to go if they have a negative experience.
- 5.5 The Network had the option to retain the name Community Safety Zones as they were familiar with this, but chose to use the new name of ‘Safe Places’ and have re-branded all their information here in B&NES. This has been quite a big job and has meant re-visiting all the Community Safety Zones to check they are all happy to continue to be places that are willing to support people with learning disabilities in this way.
- 5.6 From the end of 2013 and throughout 2014 Network members and the Police have been working together to extend the network of Safe Places across B&NES and are really pleased that we have now been able to add Twerton, Odd Down and Snow Hill to the places which are well supported by Safe Places.
- 5.7 We now have a significant number of Safe Places across Bath and North East Somerset and whilst we still have some work to do to make sure we have all areas covered we are really happy with the work that has been achieved so far.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 None undertaken in this report

7 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 This report is subject to the risk management of external partners.

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Background papers	
Please contact the contact person if you need to access this report in an alternative format	