



## Safe Places in South and Vale District



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### What is a Safe Place

The Safe Place Scheme is a national scheme that helps vulnerable people feel confident and safe whilst out and about. If someone is lost, confused, feels they are being bullied, abused or harassed while they are out they can go to a designated Safe Place



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### Who is a vulnerable person

A vulnerable person might be :

- A frail elderly person
- A person who has dementia
- A person with a learning disability such as Down's Syndrome
- A person with autism
- Someone who has mental health needs

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## Why are Safe Places Helpful?

- Every year an estimated 200,000 people go missing in the UK. Whilst in some cases, missing adults may make a life choice to leave and 'start their lives over again' *the majority of missing people, children and adults, are vulnerable*
- Source Missing Adults and Children- A Cross-Government Strategy

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## Why are Safe Places necessary?

- 90% of people with learning disabilities have experienced bullying (source Mencap)
- **"I believe the number of people actually suffering is equivalent to the number who report religious and race hate crime each year – 60,000"**
- Stephen Brookes, UK Disability Hate Crime Network/Disability Rights

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## How do people know where a Safe Place is?

Safe Places display a nationally recognised logo



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### Where can I find Safe Places?

- A Safe Place can be a local community centre, day centre , library or leisure centre or GP Surgery
- It could be a local business such as a supermarket or café or building society
- e.g: Waitrose in Henley, Wallingford and Sainsbury's at Didcot, the Library in Abingdon
- Safe Places display the logo in the window of their premises

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### Safe Places Locations

- This information will be held on the Oxfordshire Safe Places Facebook Page
- It will also be added to the South and Vale District Council web pages
- It will also sit with a database of all Safe Places, held by staff at the Police Commissioner's Office at Thames Valley Police Headquarters

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### What will a Safe Place do if I go in for help?

- The Safe Place would make you welcome, reassure you, possibly offer a cup of tea or a glass of water if appropriate
- Would contact a person you know well for help
- Vulnerable people can carry a contact card to help the staff in the Safe Place to know who to speak to
- If they have no contact card, the Safe Place can still find out who might be best to help you

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## A Safe Places Contact Card



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## Contact Card 2



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What if the person does not have a contact card and cannot communicate their needs ?

- The Safe Place can call the local non-emergency police number if it is a non-urgent situation - ring **101**
- **If a crime has been committed, dial 999**
- **If some-one is clearly unwell, dial 999 and ask for an ambulance**

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## Contacting the Social and Health Care Team

- Contact Social and Health Care Team at Oxfordshire County Council on 0345 050 7666 between 8-30 and 5pm
- This line will direct you to the out of hours service number after 5pm
- Press Option 1 for adult social care services on the menu of options

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## How are Safe Places chosen?

- Thames Valley Police and local Champions work with the local community to identify and set up Safe Places
- Local police approve Safe Places- only then will the distinctive logo be given to the Safe Place
- The local police keep a data base of all Safe Places in their area

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## How are Safe Places chosen?

- Safe Places need to have space at the front of the premises where someone could sit to wait for their supporter to arrive
- They must have more than one person working there to safeguard everyone
- They must be approved by the local police and Community Safety Partnership
- Pubs will not be included in this scheme as there are potential risks to vulnerable people

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## Role of Fire and Rescue

- The Fire and Rescue Services will offer training to potential Safe Places.
- They will also be able to monitor Safe Places to check how people are using them.
- They already deliver awareness raising sessions in schools and will promote Safe Places to vulnerable young people in the schools and colleges they work with.
- They will promote the scheme during Safe and Well visits to vulnerable persons.

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## Role of the Champion



Safe Places Champions are volunteers who work with the Police and Fire and Rescue Services to identify potential Safe Places, sign them up, assist with training, distribution of contact cards, carry out mystery shopping visits and support reviews of the Safe Places

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## How are Safe Places supported?

- The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership has set up a local Safe Places steering group who meet to develop the scheme across the South and Vale District, monitor how everything is going, share ideas and information, provide resources and raise awareness of the scheme
- Partners include the Police, Fire and Rescue Services covering the South and Vale and Oxfordshire Family Support Network

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### Supporting Safe Places

- The local Safe Places are given an information pack including a form to log when someone contacts them
- They do not have to log personal details - only the nature of the incident and the action taken
- This log sheet will be given to the local PCSOs and the Community Safety Partnership will collate the data to show how the scheme is being used

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### What Safe Places do *not* have to do

- They do not give personal and intimate care - they must call the person's supporter
- They are not required to give first aid - again they should either call a qualified first aider if it is a large store, or call 999
- They do not give medication to that person - again they should call the supporter or 999
- There is a guidance sheet in our information pack to help you

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### What people say about the value of Safe Places

"Launching Safe Places is wonderful news for vulnerable people like my son who is 19 and has a learning disability. He has been bullied in the past by strangers in town and felt he had nowhere to turn to. He badly wants to be independent and Safe Places will enable him to go out with the confidence he will have somewhere to go if he feels he is at risk whilst out in the community." Parent

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## What Our Local Police Say:

South and Vale Local Area Police Commander  
Rory Freeman:

"We all have a right to be safe and feel safe in the community we live in. By working together, Safe Places provides reassurance and support to people who may need it. This scheme will allow communities in South and Vale to come together to help each other".

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## Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service

"Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service are extremely proud to be involved with the Safe Places scheme, aimed at the heart of our core values in helping those most vulnerable in our communities. People have the right to feel safe when out and about, and we can all play a part in making that happen."



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