

# Safe Places Project

A fact sheet for businesses in Warrington



**Safe Places** is a local hate crime initiative led by Warrington Borough Council Hate Crime Partnership together with Warrington Speak Up, an independent advocacy organisation.

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## **Safe Places aims to address bullying and hate crime against vulnerable people.**

Hate crime can destroy lives and instil fear in victims and witnesses. It can stop people from living and enjoying their everyday lives. Hate crime affects whole communities and can leave long-lasting damage to the fabric of our society. Hate crime hurts all of us.

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## **Safe Places aims to raise awareness and understanding of hate crime.**

Our aim is that people will become more aware of personal safety and that understanding and reporting of hate crime will increase.

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## **Safe Places is aimed at people with learning difficulties.**

It is a practical way of helping vulnerable people enjoy their communities and access the town centre knowing that support is available if they feel worried, threatened, intimidated or bullied. It is a way of raising awareness of hate crime.

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## How does Safe Places work?

A person with a learning difficulty carries a **Safe Places** card with their name, emergency contact details and relevant health information.

**Safe Places** cards are available from Warrington Speak Up. Individuals complete an application form and a record is kept of their details for reference. Cards are then administered with specific personal information and contact details of people who are known to the card holder.

Public premises such as shops, cafes, pubs, libraries and other places of interest register to be officially known as a 'safe place' for people with learning difficulties. They display a **Safe Places** sticker in their window and ensure that staff are aware of how to offer appropriate support.

If someone with a learning difficulty needs help when they are in the town centre they can show their card to a member of staff in a business displaying the **Safe Places** sticker. Someone will then call their emergency contact or the police, depending on what the problem is.

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## How can my business become a safe place?

To become a registered 'safe place' in Warrington town centre please call Warrington Speak Up on **01925 246 888** and ask to speak to Pip or Wayne.

You will be provided with an A4 vinyl sticker, information sheet and ongoing informal support.

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**We do hope you will join with us in tackling hate crime, helping to make Warrington town centre a safe place for all.**

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