

# Safe Places & Dementia Friendly Community Chair's Announcement

## Safe Places

Wiltshire Council's Warminster Area Board & partners are working with representatives from Town and Parish Councils, businesses, the voluntary sector and organisations supporting vulnerable people to set up the Safe Places scheme in Warminster.

Safe Places is a national scheme to encourage businesses and services to provide initial support to anyone who feels lost and vulnerable when out and about in their community. A Safe Place is indicated by a sticker displayed prominently in the window of each business or service that has agreed to take on this role. In Wiltshire, Safe Places has been piloted successfully in Salisbury and Devizes and has also received a grant from the Wiltshire Police Commissioner to roll out the scheme.

A steering group consisting of Wiltshire Council representatives including the Area Board, Town and Parish representatives, the Community Partnership, businesses and voluntary and community groups has been established and will meet to take forward the Safe Places scheme. **The next meeting of the group is Tuesday 27 January at 4pm to 6pm at the Fire and Rescue station meeting room.**

There are a number of steps involved in setting up the Scheme and these are:

1. Take the decision to implement the Safe Places scheme
2. Bring together a steering group
3. Adopt the Safe Places in Wiltshire resource pack
4. Identify possible safe place locations in the community
5. Approach the locations
6. Publicise the scheme
7. Evaluation and ongoing support

## Becoming a Dementia Friendly Community

Alongside setting up Safe Places in Warminster, the steering group will also be working towards Warminster becoming a Dementia friendly community. This will involve working with other agencies & partners to ensure that the 10 key areas are implemented.

A dementia-friendly community is one in which people with dementia are empowered to have high aspirations and feel confident, knowing they can contribute and participate in activities that are meaningful to them.

To achieve this, communities working to become dementia friendly should focus on the following 10 key areas:

### 1. Involvement of people with dementia:

Shape communities around the needs and aspirations of people living with dementia alongside the views of their carers. Each community will have its own diverse populations and focus must include understanding demographic variation, the needs of people with dementia from seldom heard communities and the impact of the geography e.g. rural versus urban locations.

## **2. Challenge stigma and build understanding:**

Work to break down the stigma of dementia, including in seldom heard communities, and increase awareness and understanding of dementia.

## **3 Accessible community activities:**

Offer organised activities that are specific and appropriate to the needs of people with dementia. Also ensure that existing leisure services and entertainment activities are more inclusive of people with dementia.

## **4. Acknowledge potential:**

Ensure that people with dementia themselves acknowledge the positive contribution they can make to their communities. Build on the goodwill in the general public to make communities dementia-friendly.

## **5. Ensure an early diagnosis:**

Ensure access to early diagnosis and post-diagnostic support. Have health and social care services that are integrated and delivering person-centred care for people with dementia in all settings.

## **6. Practical support to enable engagement in community life:**

Deliver a befriending service that includes practical support to ensure people with dementia can engage in community life as well as offering emotional support.

## **7. Community-based solutions:**

Support people with dementia in whatever care setting they live, from maintaining independence in their own home to inclusive, quality care homes. Community-based solutions to housing can prevent people from unnecessarily accessing healthcare and support people to live longer in their own homes.

## **8. Consistent and reliable travel options:**

Ensure that people with dementia can be confident that transport will be consistent, reliable and responsive and respectful to their needs.

## **9. Easy to navigate environments:**

Ensure that the physical environment is accessible and easy to navigate for people with dementia.

## **10. Respectful and responsive businesses and services:**

Promote awareness of dementia in all shops, businesses and services so all staff demonstrate understanding and know how to recognise symptoms. Encourage organisations to establish strategies that help people with dementia utilise their business.

As mentioned above, the next meeting of the Warminster steering group working to take forward these schemes is Tuesday 27 January at 4pm to 6pm at the Fire and Rescue station meeting room. Please contact the Community Area Manager, Jacqui Abbott if further information is required.