

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 have taken forward the Safe Places Scheme in Warminster

Businesses are currently being signed up to the Scheme and you will shortly see stickers in a number of windows throughout the town. The next step will be to hold a celebratory launch of the scheme and implement a publicity campaign, particularly to vulnerable groups.

Becoming a Dementia Friendly Community

Alongside setting up Safe Places in Warminster, the steering group is also 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.

As part of this campaign in Warminster, there is a Dementia Friends session in the library on Tuesday 8 May from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. Please sign up through Jacqui Abbott or the Dementia Friends website.

In addition, Jacqui is working with volunteers to establish a Memory Café and various other projects and activities. This is likely to be once a month on a Thursday morning at Warminster library. Please contact Jacqui if you would like to be involved in these activities or be part of the Dementia Friendly steering group.

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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.