

Just a reminder of what it's all about ...

The aim of Safe Places is to provide vulnerable individuals with places they know they can go to and immediately receive help if they feel threatened or intimidated.

Safe Places provides havens for vulnerable people to turn to if they encounter problems when in busy public places. Each location that signs up to the initiative will display a sticker that



identifies it as a 'Safe Place' and Ann Shaw of West Mercia Police will provide training for staff at each site to ensure they know exactly what they're doing.

In Oswestry representatives from the Oswestry Equality Group, Mencap, West Mercia Police, Shropshire Council and SDN were among those in the two teams who launched the recruitment drive.

Hate crime success at day centre event

Hate crime is the main reason why schemes like Safe Places are needed both in Shropshire and around the country. And one of the best ways to counter hate crime is through education and awareness-raising.

So well done to the Abbots Wood Day Centre in Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, which hosted a day-long hate crime awareness event during the summer.

This was a sequel to the centre's very successful event last year. For Shropshire Disability

Network in particular it was a pleasure to be able to join in, partly because of the value of the event for people with disabilities but also because SDN is now the lead organisation on the Safe Places Shropshire.

The event involved Pegasus Arts & Crafts, Shropshire Support Partnership, Severnside Housing, West Mercia Police, Fire and Rescue, Together, Adult Protection, Autonomy, Funky Jewellery, Headway, Reach, Soil and Toil, Shropshire MIND, Samaritans, and SIAS.

Safe Places Shropshire

October 2014

In not much more than a year Safe Places Shropshire has gone a long way - both geographically and in terms of people knowing about it. In Telford & Wrekin a parallel group is also up and running, and the two groups share information and resources.



The initial good work in 2013 around Shrewsbury and Church Stretton has been complemented with a very successful recent recruiting drive among members of the Oswestry business community

The very first organisations to sign up were the Advertizer, Bailey's, Cambrian Medical Centre, Corner Patch, Flower Gallery, Honey Pots, Jeff & Burgess Taxis, Oswestry Food-bank, St Oswald's Church, Wilko's, and Wot's Cooking.

Smaller local companies were much more willing to get involved straight away than larger national organisations, where the response was often 'we'll have to check with head office first'.

And it doesn't stop there!

Further recruitment drives are planned around the county to get more and more towns and villages involved in Safe Places. It's clear from the enthusiastic response of businesses in Shrewsbury, Telford, Church Stretton and Oswestry that there is a real community spirit that just needs to be tapped into.

For more information about Safe Places contact Ann Shaw of West Mercia Police (Tel 01952 214637, 0779 2787480, or 101). Maybe you have a business or other organisation and would like to join up, or perhaps you or a family member feel you might need to use Safe Places some day. Or it could be you are just plain curious! It doesn't matter. Ann will be pleased to hear from you.

How to report hate crime

Please use 101 for non-emergencies and 999 in case of an emergency. However, if you feel you can't report an incident yourself, then send an email to us at: hatecrime@shropshire-disability.net so that we can act appropriately.

Card can speak for you

This is the card that people can carry if they have communication difficulties. It enables businesses supporting Safe Places to know who to contact on their behalf and where to reach them. Cards can be obtained in several ways - from businesses with a Safe Place sticker on the window, from hatecrime@shropshire-disability.net, or from ann.shaw@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



Finding out more

To find out more about Safe Places and the businesses near you that are signed up to it, please visit the Shropshire Disability Network website - <http://shropshire-disability.net/safe-shropshire/>

New alliance aims to make county 'dementia friendly'

A group of some 15 people from organisations around the county have come together to set up Shropshire Dementia Action Alliance. A steering group has been formed to plan and co-ordinate activity, and the aim is to make Shropshire dementia friendly and thereby enable people (and their carers) to live well with dementia.

'We use our contacts and networks of influence to encourage organisations large and small to make changes that ensure their service or business is more dementia friendly,' said a member of the steering group.

'We range from hospitals to care homes to transport to pharmacies. We promote and deliver Dementia Friends awareness sessions, and promote the training of Dementia Champions. We work in communities to urge organisations and business to

sign up to the Action Alliance, to develop an action plan, and to then update their plans every six month or so.

'We have a Facebook page, Shropshire Dementia Action Alliance <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shropshire-Dementia-Action-Alliance/918892074792675?ref=hl>, where we post articles, links, meetings and events details. We will soon be developing a website. We also have an area on the National Dementia Action Alliance website, where members are listed, with their action plans.'

Organisations are welcome to sign up to the Shropshire Dementia Action Alliance.

For information please visit the Facebook page, the national site or contact the Alliance directly at georgerook51@gmail.com or davesandb@aol.com.

These are the organisations behind Safe Places Shropshire

