



Hampshire
County Council



SAFER PLACES NEWSLETTER

Edition 1 – May 2011

Welcome.....

To the very first edition of the Safer Places Newsletter. This regular publication will keep you informed of the progress of Southampton's Safer Places Scheme as it is rolled out throughout the city. We will share success stories, feedback from scheme-users, and updates from your local PCSOs.

Firstly, we would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all venues that are participating; you are helping to make Southampton a safer place for some of its most vulnerable residents.



CONTACTS

Please direct any queries to:
Hilary Linssen
hilary.linssen@southampton.gov.uk
023 8083 4854

Carol Harwood or Samantha Osman
hate.crime@southampton.gov.uk
023 8083 4114

What is the Safer Places Scheme? A Brief Overview for our Newest Recruits

The Safer Places scheme is part of a wider "Respect me" campaign which aims to improve the experience of disabled people in the community.

Despite several recent well publicised cases, some disabled people are still victims of bullying and harassment when they go out. Often, this leaves them feeling very vulnerable and afraid.

A 'Safe Place' is an ordinary business or shop that has agreed to offer support if someone has a negative experience when out in their local community. A person can enter the premises and receive help in contacting a trusted person or the police if they have been the victim of a crime. The venue provides a safe place for the person to wait for their trusted person, or the police, to arrive.

Safer Places in Portswood

The 'Safer Places Scheme' was piloted in Portswood initially and an event was held at Portswood Church to celebrate the launch on 2nd February 2011.

Attendees included local residents, shop managers and Councillor for Social Policy, Ivan White, who praised the scheme for its benefit to the community: "We are proud to be piloting this scheme in Portswood, which is a true example of a community helping a community. I am pleased so many businesses in the local community as well as PCSOs have committed to this scheme, which is a simple yet great way to help the vulnerable community."

Participating Venues:

- **The Co-operative**
- **Trago Lounge**
- **Kate's Café**
- **Boots**
- **Mecca Bingo Hall**
- **Waitrose**
- **Day Lewis Pharmacy**
- **Iceland**
- **Portswood Library**
- **Portswood Police Station**
- **Southampton Mencap**



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Next Stop..... Shirley!

The Safer Places team have been working in Shirley to recruit new venues on the High Street. So far, the following establishments have signed up:

- Boots
- Iceland
- The Co-operative
- Sainsburys
- The Housing Office
- Shirley Police Station
- Angel Human Resources
- Oxfam
- Shirley Library
- Tesco

The scheme will be launched in Shirley on Wednesday 11th May 2011. An event will be held at Shirley Library from 10am – 12pm to celebrate the launch and to offer local residents and staff an opportunity to find out more.

If you would like to attend please contact Sam on 023 8083 3762

‘Safer Places’ Cards

Cards are being distributed by Southampton Mencap, Southampton Day Services and In Touch Support to people that may benefit from the scheme.

If you know someone who would like a card, please call:
Hilary on 023 8083 4854 or
Sam on 023 8083 3762



Disability Hate Crime

Whilst most people have no problems in Southampton, a few people do experience Hate Crimes.

A hate crime is:
A crime motivated by malice, or ill will, towards a social group by the victim or any other person.

From April 2010 to March 2011 there were 1315 hate crimes recorded in Southampton. 56 of these incidents were experienced by people with disabilities.

If you experience, or witness, a hate crime it's important you tell someone about it, for example the police.

If you have any questions, or concerns, you can also call the council on 023 8083 4114 or email hate.crime@southampton.gov.uk

What ‘Safe Places’ means to me:

“The Safe Places Scheme incorporates everything that Waitrose believes in. Waitrose is a partnership and part of the community and supports all different groups of our community, we see the scheme as looking after the customers as they look after us.”

Jo Williamson, Manager of Portswood Waitrose

