

# COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

## REPORT

**Subject:** Safe Havens Update

**Date:** Wednesday 30 June 2021

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**Security:** [UNPROTECTED]

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### 1. Brief Update

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the work to launch the Safe Havens scheme across Barking & Dagenham which creates safe spaces for residents in need of help including young people and women and girls.
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### 2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Community Safety Partnership Board:
- Note the contents of this report.
  - Continue to support the ongoing work to launch the scheme.

### 3. Main Update

- 3.1 Safe Havens are a practical way of helping residents to enjoy their community knowing that support is easily available if they need help.
- 3.2 Public premises such as shops, cafes, pubs, libraries and other places of interest can register to be officially known as a safe haven. If a resident is in danger, feels threatened or harassed on the street, are unwell or just in need of some help they can look for the Safe Haven sign in windows.
- 3.3 Safe Havens can help by letting someone inside and keeping out those who are threatening them, calling the police or family or friends, or simply by giving directions or public transport information.

- 3.4 Safe Haven 'In Case of Emergency' (ICE) cards have been developed by the Council's Community Safety Partnership Team for residents to fill in the details of someone they would like to be contacted in an emergency. This could be anyone such as a friend, relative or someone else.
- 3.5 Information packs have been developed for businesses which explain how to assist the public and contain a register to complete each time a person is helped.
- 3.6 Council officers will check in with the businesses on a periodic basis in order to maintain an overview of the scheme and identify if businesses require any further support.
- 3.7 In collaboration with the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum and local schools, a door sticker logo has been developed to be displayed inside shop windows for businesses who are participating in the Safe Havens scheme. This will allow residents to easily identify where they can go for help.
- 3.8 An online Safe Haven Survey is currently live on the Council's website to ask residents to help us identify which shops, businesses or venues they would feel most comfortable approaching for help. Through the survey we are also asking businesses to tell us if they are interested in participating in the scheme. The survey is live for the next few weeks and closes on 21 June 2021.
- 3.9 The aim is for Safe Havens scheme to go-live on 12 July 2021. This is to allow opportunity for promotion of the scheme through school channels before the end of term.
- 3.10 The Safe Havens project is linked to ongoing work around Women's Safety. Following the murder of Sarah Everard, a survey was launched by the Council in which 282 people participated and 408 pins were placed on a map to show where women felt unsafe. The problem 'hotspot' locations identified by local women have been included in the Safe Havens project and businesses in these areas will be targeted for participation during the roll out.
- 3.11 The Safe Havens project is also connected to the contextual safeguarding agenda and the work of the multi-agency Contextual Safeguarding and Exploitation Strategic Group.
- 3.12 As part of the Safe Haven's rollout, there is a separate project to establish cultural venues as safe places which will offer targeted interventions to young people who are identified as in need of support.
- 3.13 A further progress update to be provided at the next Community Safety Partnership Board in September 2021.