



**Safer Policy and Performance Board  
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA  
Tuesday, 20 January 2015 at 6.30 p.m.  
Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Walsh', is centered on the page.

**Chief Executive**

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Councillor Dave Thompson (Chairman)</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Darren Lea (Vice- Chairman)</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Susan Edge</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Robert Gilligan</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Valerie Hill</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Paul Nolan</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>
<b>Councillor Pauline Sinnott</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Geoff Zygadllo</b>	<b>Labour</b>

*Please contact Lynn Derbyshire on 0151 511 7975 or e-mail  
lynn.derbyshire@halton.gov.uk for further information.*

*The next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 17 March 2015*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Part I**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>(8E) CONTINUATION OF SAFE IN TOWN SCHEME</b>	<b>1 - 5</b>

*In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.*

Report To: Safer Policy and Performance Board  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
Reporting Officer: Strategic Director – Adults and Communities  
Portfolio: Community Safety  
Subject: Continuation of Safe in Town Scheme  
Wards All

### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To notify Board Members of progress for the Safe in Town Project and the ongoing work to ensure the sustainability of the project.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 **Board Members are asked to note the report and discuss:-**

- a. **Possible funding sources for the long term sustainability of the scheme; and**
- b. **Any suggestions that might improve the project.**

### **3.0 Background and Context**

3.1 Following reports to the two Safeguarding Boards, Safer Halton PPB and SSP in early 2012, it was agreed to run a 6 month pilot scheme called Safe in Town. This was based on similar schemes operating in other parts of the country, and was about providing a safe haven for people who may feel vulnerable for whatever reason.

3.2 Once individuals enter a shop which has the Safe in Town sticker in the window, and declare themselves part of the scheme by showing a laminated card. One of the staff members would then phone a dedicated number for them, and a family member or carer would come out and collect them. The Halton scheme widened the range of beneficiaries and included adults and young people (14+) who had a learning or physical disability, and anyone over 60.

3.3 The initial pilot was overseen by a Steering Group consisting of a variety of interested Partners such as:-

3.4 ➤ Cheshire Police (hate crime officer and E&D representative)

- Day Services
- Sure Start to Later Life
- Community Development
- Halton Speak Out representatives
- Adults Commissioning Manager
- SPARC
- HBC Partnership Officer
- Children in Need representative
- Nominated Safeguarding representative

- 3.5 Following the achievements of the pilot, successful funding applications were made to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Halton's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for a total match funding pot of £10,000. This is due to finish on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. This enabled 10 hours of staff time to be dedicated to the project, along with an allocation for branded merchandise.
- 3.6 Further updates were brought back to the various Board mid, seeking continued support for the scheme. This report highlighted the positive feedback from beneficiaries and the empowerment element of the work.
- 3.7 Halton Speak Out has led on the scheme supported by colleagues from the Council and the Police. The PCC and CCG asked, as part of their funding conditions, that the Steering Group look at extending the types of beneficiaries for the scheme, whilst remembering that it is intended to be an element of a wider safeguarding agenda.
- 3.8 These Partner discussions have led to the scheme now including individuals with low level mental health problems and dementia, and the Steering Group reflects this by the inclusion of representatives from Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society.
- 3.9 The logo for the scheme was designed and agreed by Halton's People's Cabinet and is now being used by Cheshire Police to push out the scheme across the whole geographical footprint (except for Warrington who have their own scheme). Easy read comic books, which were produced for both individuals and organisations, to ensure the scheme's guidelines and safeguarding messages were consistent when shared with participants, have also been used by the Police, with thanks given to Halton Speak Out as they hold the software licence.

#### **4.0 *Supporting Information and Considerations***

- 4.1 The scheme has now been in place since September 2012, and the information below give a breakdown of beneficiaries and premises signed up as of the end of November 2014:-
- 504 people have signed up to the scheme.
  - 31 venues in Runcorn Shopping Centre are now Safe in Town havens
  - 22 venues in Runcorn Old Town are now Safe in Town havens

- 18 venues in Widnes Town Centre are now Safe in Town havens
- 10 local shops on housing estates throughout Halton are Safe in Town havens
- 3 Community centres are Safe in Town havens (2 Runcorn, 1 Widnes)
- 2 Health Centres in Runcorn

4.2 It is anticipated by the end of the current funding (March 2015) the numbers will have increased, with targeted activity to sign up more local shops, non-commercial premises and in particularly health centres and GP surgeries.

4.3 The Widnes Vikings are in discussions to put the Safe in Town logo on the shirts of their younger players and the scheme has been included as part of the Bright Sparks kitemark and the purple handbook for people experiencing Alzheimer's and other forms of Dementia.

4.3 The scheme incurs very low costs, with most of the funding being used to support the promotion of the scheme. The current funding package has allowed the dedicated staff member to get out and actually knock on doors to encourage sign up both for individuals and organisations.

It's hoped to align the scheme to any future work being gone around the night-time economy in Halton and Cheshire, and discussions are currently underway with Cheshire Police.

## 5. Financial Costs/Implications

5.1 The currently funding details are given below:-

Name	No Hrs	Weekly	Monthly	Annual (£)
Staff Member	10	84.1	364.43	4,373
*LD Consultant	3		92	1,104
Management charges				658
Promotional Material				1,000
Travel				960
Sundaries				800
Dvd				500
<b>Total</b>				<b>9,395</b>

(\* this is a young person on placement from Caverdish School)

5.2 The Steering Group would suggest that the costs remain the same for the scheme, with perhaps a small reduction related to the sundaries and promotional material.

5.3 At the moment there are no financial costs and/or implications for the Council except a small amount of staff time from the Partnership Officer. Previously costs for the pilot were met by Halton Strategic Partnership funds.

## 6. Additional Information

6.1 Contact has been made with a similar scheme in St Helens. This scheme is “owned” by the Coalition of Disabled People, but administered by the Community Safety Partnership. There are no dedicated staff which makes it difficult to actively promote their project. It is also limited to adults with learning disabilities. So far since it’s conception (early 2012), they only have 99 people signed up, however as the scheme is administered by the Community Safety Partnership – it doesn’t have the same funding issues as the Halton scheme. They haven’t done any type of formal evaluation either, and have suggested that type of activity might become a barrier in itself for people getting involved with the scheme.

6.2 Whilst the scheme itself hasn’t been “used” there have been some very positive comments made, including:-

- I feel safer knowing I have the Safe in Town card in my pocket.
- I don’t like going to the shops on my own - I had a bad experience last year, Safe in Town will make me feel safer.
- This scheme is a very good idea it helps us to keep us safe.
- My wife doesn’t like using mobile phone I will feel better when she goes out on her own knowing she can get help if she needs it.
- Fantastic Idea it should have been done long ago.
- My son does go out on his own but this will make me feel better knowing there is somewhere he can go if he anything happens.
- Somebody shouted at me when I went out to the shops so I don’t like going out anymore - the card will help me to go out again.
- My wife has just come out of hospital she is very vulnerable but likes going to the shops having the card will take the worry from both of us.
- This is a fantastic idea just what the community need to make vulnerable people feel safer. (**Councillor Tom McInerney**)

## 7. Implications for the Council’s Priorities

### 7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

There are no direct implications for Children and Young People other those outlined in the report.

### 7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications for Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton other those outlined in the report..

### 7.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications for A Healthy Halton other than those outlined in the report.

**7.4 A Safer Halton**

There are no direct implications for A Safer Halton other than those outlined in the report.

**7.5 Environment & Regeneration in Halton**

There are no direct implications for Employment and Regeneration in Halton other than those outlined in the report.

**8. Risk Analysis**

8.1 There are some risks associated with the scheme if the Safeguarding training given to staff within organisations is not refreshed. However, the Steering Group have tried to mitigate this by asking that the comic books are kept on site and ensure that new staff benefit from them.

**9. Equality and Diversity Issues**

9.1 There are no specific equality and diversity issues with the delivery of the scheme, and in fact supporting this scheme helps the Authority meet it's requires under the Equality Act 2010 by advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who don't.

**10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTIONS 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.