



Safe Places National Network



Membership Pack

Safe Places Organisation CIC
4 Wellington Circus
Nottingham, NG1 5AL
Registered in England and Wales 09267948

Introduction

The Safe Places National Network was created to break down the borders and barriers vulnerable people face every day and unite the patchwork of Safe Place & Keep Safe schemes to create a truly accessible nationwide network of support.

Becoming a member of the National Network isn't just about joining a Safe Places club.

Membership of the National Network provides a fantastic range of accessible benefits which are detailed below.

Everything we provide is designed to ensuring all members Safe Places information is accessible, so everyone can be taught about being safe and keeping safe and can easily locate a Safe Place while out and about in the community.

All our members information is accessible through our bespoke assistive technology including the interactive Safe Places web site and free-to-use Safe Places smart phone apps.

Upon joining the Safe Places National Network anyone located in their district who is looking to teach vulnerable people to be safe and keep safe are given unlimited access to our bespoke symbolised SEND education and information resources.

These resources have been specially designed to help teach about subjects from finding and using Safe Places to traveling by public transport and much more; collectively all our resources are designed to help encourage safety and independence.

By introducing bespoke Safe Places learning resources, we enable Safe Places to be taught as part of the 'Life skills' curriculum in SEND education establishments and well as in community settings. This plays a key role in supporting the promotion of independence and helping improve the quality of life of some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

By creating an accessible nationwide network of support, we believe vulnerable people can be encouraged to be more independent and live more active, engaging, fulfilling lives.

While designing our benefits we have worked to ensure it helps local authorities meet their obligation under the Children and Families Act, 'to prepare young people with SEND to lead independent lives and feel part of a community'.

Being safe and feeling safe while out and about encourages vulnerable people to become more visible in their communities; the more visible they are the safer they are.

Aspects of the education resources are designed to encourage SEND volunteers to assist in visiting and auditing the Safe Place venues. This encourages vulnerable people to visit new places and meet new people using our assistive technology while practicing, travel skills, community access and meeting new people alongside numeracy and literacy skills.

Safe Places Organisation CIC
4 Wellington Circus
Nottingham, NG1 5AL
Registered in England and Wales 09267948

Membership of the National Network is now available to all Safe Place and Keep Safe scheme operators across the UK.

The following list details all the benefits of becoming part of the Safe Places Nationwide Network of support.

While designing all the benefits we have been mindful to ensure all our members information is as accessible as possible.

We didn't believe the spirit of true accessibility was met by simply including a few easy read pictures alongside the resources.

Accessibility to us means all our resources are embedded with symbols to make them as accessible to as many people as possible.

Our web site and resources contain the accessible font 'FS Me' not a standard off the shelf font.

Our Web site is embedded with a specialist software that is designed to provide a bit of symbol support for those who may struggle to read in a traditional way.

When the user touches the word (or hovers their cursor over it; go on try it!) the symbol for the word appears.

Our members Safe Places information is available on-the-go in the community using our free Safe Places Apps.

Accessibility to us doesn't mean placing the information on a web site; this would require vulnerable people to find a location with a computer they can access so they can see it; they may as well simply walk the street (while upset) looking for a sticker in a shop window with fingers crossed they are walking in the right direction.

Accessibility to us means being able to access the information and get to a Safe Place while they are in the very place they live their lives not in a classroom or day centre.

All of these accessibility considerations mean our members can demonstrate they have considered the Meeting Accessibility Requirements as required under the Equality Act 2010.

The Act says;

Your service must be accessible to everyone who needs it. If it isn't, you may be in breach of the Equality Act 2010.

Member Benefits

There are three key benefits from becoming members of the Safe Places National Network.

1. Interactive SEND Education Web Site
2. Free-to-use Smart Phone Apps
3. Education and Information materials (SEND and Mainstream)

1 Web Site

www.safeplaces.org.uk is the hub for the National Network

Scheme operators (members) and are allocated a Virtual Private Network (VPN) account

Account holds all information about member's scheme and Safe Places

Designed to be used in SEND education establishments

Is embedded with symbols to ensure as many user groups as possible can access the information

This means if you hover your mouse over a word and the symbol appears

It also works with both touch screens and interactive whiteboards

Uses FS Me font which was researched & developed with (and endorsed by) Mencap; it is designed specifically to help this who struggle a bit with reading & it's the font we use here

Resolves the issue of multiple web sites being operated within a region/nationally

Removes the need and cost of maintaining a non-SEND friendly web site

All member's Safe Places can be easily viewed on a map and listed

Details of each Safe Place visible at the touch of a button

Search function allows you to find all our members Safe Places no matter where you are

2 Free-to-use Smart Phone Apps

Are now and will always be free-to-use

Available to download at the App store and Google Play

Members information on the web site populates the free-to-use smart phone apps

All member districts Safe Place details are visible

Has reactive function 'Get me to my nearest Safe Place Now' (Panic button)

If no Safe Place is located within a 15-minute walk it will automatically offer to call the non-emergency 101 number for the user.

Can be used proactively to find and visit Safe Places as part of the Safety in the Community 'Life skills' curriculum

Can be used to encourage people to get out and about and engage with their community

Safe Place details available at the touch of a button

Only directs the user to open Safe Places

Is an effective way to reach out to more difficult to reach isolated vulnerable people already living independently who may already have and use a smart phone

Used for a Safe Places 'treasure hunt' competition. Entrants details used to evidence exactly how many people are discovering Safe Places and when

Treasure hunt can be in different parts of the local area to encourages vulnerable users to visit and experience new places

Apps can be used by SEND college students who 'volunteer for work experience' as part of their course to help identify and audit Safe Places for the scheme operators

Venue Audits provide figures of how many individual Safe Place visits there have been and when they were made

In July 2019 the IOS Apps were further developed to be Voice Activated so those with visual impairments of those who may traditionally struggle to use a smart phone can be directed to a Safe Place by simply talking to their phones

This was followed in October 2019 with the development of Voice Command for the Android version of the Apps

Knowing support is accessible quickly and easily will give those with visual impairment the confidence to get out and about.

Making Safe Places support accessible to those with visual impairments also demonstrates consideration of the need to meet accessibility requirements.

3 Education and Information materials (SEND and Mainstream)

Introduces Safe Places to formal SEND education for the first time

Free-to-use Safe Place symbolised learning resources are available for all SEND levels

Anyone located within member districts who is looking to teach vulnerable people about being safe in the community and all about Safe Places locality have unlimited access

This enables every downloaded to be recorded so the local Scheme Operator (funding body) can see how many SEND students at each level in each area are being taught about Safe Places

Materials matched to curriculum objectives for both the National Curriculum & P Levels

Mainstream materials to explain how the scheme works and the lives of the scheme users have now started to be introduced

Easily 'tagged onto' existing anti bullying campaign sessions

In September 2019 the new suite of Mate Crime learning materials were added to the Resources.

They have been created by our SEND consultant, Teresa Reeves and include character illustrations provided by the team behind the award-winning animations 'Amazing Things Happen' & 'See Dyslexia Differently' that we host on our home page.

They have been designed to help anyone looking to teach about the dangers and signs of Mate Crime from support workers to teaching assistants and Tutors and will be available to everyone located in a district that is a member of the Safe Places National Network.

The include a full overview of the subject of mate Crime plus a set of scenarios that provide examples of situations that anyone can find themselves in.

Some are examples of Mate Crime however; others are just examples of normal healthy everyday exchanges between friends.

Some situations can occur over time when someone who initially looks like a friend starts to take your things or always ask you for money.

The scenarios are aimed at encouraging a discussion about situations people have found themselves in that they think might have been a Mate Crime.

The main aim of these scenarios is to generate a free-flowing discussion about situations like the ones in the examples.

They are also designed to encourage 'Role Play' exercises with people dressing up as characters acting out the scenarios. This is done to create an atmosphere of ease and to allow people to practice what they would do if they find themselves in a difficult situation or the situations, they have found themselves in.

Additional benefits

As well as launching our learning materials we have taken the first steps into the world of mainstream awareness raising by placing videos on our home page aimed at teaching young people tolerance and acceptance and that being different is OK.

We have formed a partnership with 'Amazing Things Happen'. Their first video has now had a staggering 50M views worldwide and has scooped awards across the globe. We think this is a great 'gateway' to promote acceptance mainstream students and teach young people about the lives of some people in their community who may need some support from time to time.

We have also formed an agreement with the Department of Education and the British Dyslexia association to host their new video 'See Dyslexia Differently'. Their video was made by the team behind Amazing Things Happen and is aimed at raising awareness about Dyslexia amongst school aged children.

If you haven't seen these wonderful videos you can find them on our homepage (please have a look they're great). We have made them available for everyone to view not just to those located within our member districts so please tell everyone you know to have a look.

For schemes who promote the support available to younger members of our communities we have partnered with the Girl Guides to have Safe Places included within their new suite of badges which were launched in the summer of 2018.

This work came about after the devastating Manchester attack which resulted in hundreds of young girls pouring into the street in need of help and not knowing where to find it.

Our conversations also factored that there are incidents where young girls find themselves in or taken to an unfamiliar place (county lines); at this time knowing they can find a Safe Place or get help over the phone could make all the difference.

While engaging in the discussions we were mindful that not all scheme operators would necessarily want to or be able to engage with younger people because of their company formation or because of the way their scheme is currently operated.

Because of this there is no actual formal commitment that schemes will be prepared to work with the guides although it is hoped this will be the case.

A Pdf of the 'Be Prepared' badge is available.

The reason for educating young girls about being safe and keeping safe needs no explanation and while the badge itself is quite self-explanatory and focuses on keeping young girls safe, there are additional upsides to engaging with your local Guide group(s) which are not included in the badge.

Firstly, we need more people looking out for vulnerable people in our communities; the more people who are aware that vulnerable people need support the better.

Secondly, while engaging with these young people they can be shown the videos hosted on our home page about Autism (Amazing Things Happen) and Dyslexia (See Dyslexia Differently) which are designed to help teach young people acceptance and that being different is OK. Having more young people understanding acceptance can only be a good thing.

Tertiary, scheme operators across the country tell us that they are struggling to visit and audit their Safe Places. The 2017 figures show the membership of the Girl Guides to be 501,590; that's both a huge resource to help-out while engaging with Safe Places and promoting support for vulnerable people in their community.

Fourthly, the badge doesn't refer to the smart phone apps, the apps have the automatic function that if an open Safe Place is more than a 15-minute walk it will automatically call the non-emergency phone number 101 – at least we can teach young girls another way they will be able to get help using their smart phone.

We are now engaging with other uniformed volunteer organisations including the launch of the first Pilot 'Volunteer Work Placement - Safe Places Auditors' with the Police Cadets in four regions. The programme is being designed to fulfil part of the Cadets Duke of Edinburgh Award or Welsh Baccalaureate.

We have agreed a partnership with O2 whereby anyone needing assistance with the Safe Places Apps including Voice Activation, will be able to arrange FREE assistance in any of the O2 stores that are located in districts that are members of the Safe Places National Network.

The assistance is completely free and even includes those who are not O2 customers.

The assistance can be arranged by calling or visiting any O2 store that is located in a member district; it maybe they are able to help straight away; if not an appointment can be made.

As the Safe Places National Network grows, so too will the O2 support network.

N.B. Please bear in mind that in light of the Covid pandemic, some of the O2 stores may have closed and some may have scaled back their operations.

Annual Membership Fee

The National Network receives no direct funding from central government so is funded by a small annual membership fee. The fee is charged per district; if a scheme covers more than one district the membership fee will be the total off all the districts combined.

The membership fee is £395 per district per year (or £7.60 per week if you prefer weekly figures).

There are a number of scheme operators who operate across multiple districts. There are also a number of scheme operators who receive collective or group funding for their membership.

Where this applies to 4 or more districts, we are able to achieve some small economies based on the following.

- 1 A single payment is received
- 2 All membership and payment information is received at the same time
- 3 All accounts are activated on the same day

If all of the above is achieved the membership fee is reduced to £355 per district per year (or £6.83 per week).

If Safe Places Org is sponsored by a company or organisation their local district receives free membership for the duration of the sponsorship period.

In Summary

While establishing Safe Place schemes in districts or counties has been a fantastic first step it still isolates vulnerable people within one place.

We believe the vulnerable residents of our communities shouldn't be restricted in their access of support by the borders and boundaries between districts and regions.

All people should be encouraged to play active parts in their local communities and beyond. To say there is support but only in your local area undermines this.

Vulnerable people should be encouraged to visit different parts of the country, be it a neighbouring city, a major tourist attraction, a day out at the seaside or visiting family members and friends.

By uniting all the Safe Places schemes across the UK, together we will turn a patchwork of schemes into a truly accessible nationwide network of support.