

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 23 May 2023

Response to motion by Councillor Nicolson – Keep Safe Spaces

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Routine All
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Policy and Sustainability Committee is asked to note this update on Keep Safe Spaces and the recommended actions which will be progressed by the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership and partners.

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Report

Response to motion by Councillor Nicolson – Keep Safe Spaces

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report responds to the motion agreed by the Council in August 2022 on Keep Safe Spaces and summarises the activities currently in place and proposals for promoting and raising awareness of the scheme.

3. Background

- 3.1 On [25 August 2022](#), the Council approved the following adjusted motion by Councillor Nicolson entitled Keep Safe Spaces:
- 3.1.1 To note:
- 3.1.1.1 Recent studies show that the Covid pandemic had increased many people's social anxiety resulting in people being at risk of becoming isolated;
 - 3.1.1.2 Keep Safe was a partnership between I am Me Scotland and Police Scotland and was an award winning initiative operating across Scotland;
 - 3.1.1.3 Keep Safe was a network of safe spaces for vulnerable or disabled people to use and to seek assistance if necessary while going about their daily lives;
 - 3.1.1.4 Keep safe spaces were checked by Police Scotland and must always have two members of staff available;
 - 3.1.1.5 Keep Safe provided free training for all staff around their availability;
 - 3.1.1.6 Keep Safe aimed to promote social inclusion and decrease disability hate crime making communities safer and more inclusive for everyone; and
 - 3.1.1.7 That current provision was skewed heavily towards the City Centre and Leith Walk areas, and that presently the only way to view the location of all Keep Safe spaces was on a smart phone app.

3.1.2 To agree:

- 3.1.2.1 To commission a report to return to Policy and Sustainability Committee in October 2022 on how best to deliver a significant expansion of Keep Safe spaces, focusing in particular on areas that were currently underserved. The report should also recommend additional ways to promote and raise awareness of the scheme; and
- 3.1.2.2 In line with 20-minute neighbourhoods and the Three Conversations approach, staff will continue to support individuals to access their local communities and retain their independence for as long as possible. CEC, through our H&SCP networks and partners in the Third and Private Sectors, will cascade information about this scheme to encourage vulnerable people to carry a Keep Safe card which holds information that provides useful information about an individual's health, how they communicate and who to contact for help and to download the Keep Safe app which alerts people to where Keep Safe spaces are located.

4. Main report

Keep Safe Spaces Scotland

- 4.1 The main aim of Keep Safe Places Scotland is to change attitudes and behaviours so that disabled and vulnerable people can feel safe within their communities.
- 4.2 The Keep Safe Scotland initiative was established by 'I Am Me Charity' and implemented in Renfrewshire in 2016 and has over 800 Keep Safe Places across Scotland, with approximately 42 Keep Safe Places now in Edinburgh.

Keep Safe Spaces in Edinburgh

- 4.3 Police Scotland have a dedicated team to work with I Am Me and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership to focus on three outcomes:
 - 4.3.1 Raise awareness about Disability Hate Crime Prevention;
 - 4.3.2 Increase the amount of Keep Safe Places across Edinburgh; and
 - 4.3.3 Distribute Keep Safe cards to as many vulnerable citizens as possible.
- 4.4 This collaborative approach is essential in order to establish a robust, sustainable structure and to maintain momentum to achieve the overarching outcomes.

Expanding Keep Safe Spaces

- 4.5 In order to expand Keep Safe Spaces in Edinburgh, there are six key actions to be progressed:
 - 4.5.1 Raising awareness via promotion and marketing of Keep Safe Spaces – to ensure that the initiative is recognised and acknowledged by service users,

more generally by residents and by local support services. This will help to ensure that it becomes a safer and more cohesive community concept;

- 4.5.2 Reviewing the list of current Keep Safe Spaces and identifying potential new venues – since the Coronavirus pandemic lockdowns some Keep Safe Spaces are no longer in operation. It is proposed to review the current list of venues and to identify potential new venues through site suitability checks. It is also proposed to engage with all venues to offer training. It is anticipated that this will also realise opportunities to collaborate with local amenities and explore opportunities for expansion of the service;
 - 4.5.3 Reviewing the content on the Keep Safe Spaces app – to ensure that the information is current and accurate, and updating this where necessary. The app will also be updated with any new venues identified. In doing so, it is intended to also add data on community resources to enable people access these services to increase their independence;
 - 4.5.4 Establishing and implementing a programme of training – as well as raising awareness of the initiative and improving opportunities for collaboration, it is proposed that this programme of training will support a more strategic and systematic structure for Keep Safe Spaces in Edinburgh;
 - 4.5.5 Establishing an Ambassador Programme – to share and promote Keep Safe Spaces as an educational tool for young people, embedding the principles and values needed to improve attitude and culture in the future; and
 - 4.5.6 Working with key support providers to update the current Disability Awareness leaflet – to ensure that the information and support service information is up to date.
- 4.6 The Keep Safe Spaces initiative is primarily supported by the Council through the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The actions to be progressed are set out in paragraph 4.5 of the main report.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The main costs associated with this programme are time and capacity within Police Scotland and the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, alongside volunteers, Ambassadors and partners.
- 6.2 The cost of the training is met by Police Scotland.
- 6.3 The cost of promotional materials (which are supplied by I Am Me) is estimated to be £2,500.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Maintaining and enhancing Keep Safe Places in Edinburgh will encourage people to access their local community, as well as travel more independently across the city reassured that there are various Keep Safe Places across the city. In addition, they can potentially use the Keep Safe App to help them navigate their route and incorporate Keep Safe Places within their travel plans.
- 7.2 Police Scotland provide a wide range of training to equip staff and volunteers of Keep Safe Places. Venue suitability and staff are authorised by Police Scotland and receive training in Hate Crime Prevention and Discrimination, along with Disability Awareness training. Venues and staff also have the option of 3rd Party Reporting training. Induction and refresher training is provided.
- 7.3 I Am Me charity have approximately seven years' experience of implementing this initiative in other Local Authorities and have built intelligence and subsequent resources (including further training) to support staff and volunteers of Keep Safe Places.
- 7.4 Authorised Keep Safe Places have an established connection with both Police Scotland, and I Am Me charity for further guidance and support with any concerns, issues or incidents they need assistance with.
- 7.5 Discussions with Volunteer Edinburgh are also planned to establish a core team to support the initiative.
- 7.6 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is not required though consideration regarding accessibility and equality will be a priority.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [I Am Me Scotland](#).
- 8.2 [I Am Me Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023](#).
- 8.3 Police Scotland – [Keep Safe Scheme](#).

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Progress so far; and
- 9.2 Appendix 2 – List of Current Keep Safe Spaces

Appendix 1 – Keep Safe Spaces – Progress so far

Promotion and Community engagement programme

Direct engagement with citizens and support providers has taken place at a variety of venues across Edinburgh to promote the initiative, to provide information leaflets and to speak to premise managers and staff.

In addition, site visits (to check eligibility of venues and staff) have taken place and presentations and information roadshows been delivered online and face to face (through MS Teams meetings, forum meetings, public places and at community events).

In 2023 there has been on-going training with community bases, including Broomhouse Space (where three sessions for staff and volunteers were carried out) and roadshow stands and events have taken place to raise awareness of the initiative.

In 2021 and 2022 a number of events took place including:

- 9 June 2021- EVOC Disability Forum
- 27 July 2021 - Gorgie & Dalry Community Forum
- 4 August 2021- PHPs staff via MS Teams
- 19 August 2021 – within Princes Street Gardens
- 14 Sept 2021 – Slateford Green Community Gathering
- 13 October 2021 – ROAM (Sexual health clinic) meeting
- 25 November 2021 – Open day at the Scottish Parliament with I Am me.
- 14 December 2021 - on George Street.
- 8 February 2022 – Teens Plus at Liberton Brae.
- 12 February 2022 – in the Meadows.
- 22 February 2022 – Ambassador training to the PS Youth Volunteers
- 4 March 2022– Go Beyond Community Networking event, WHALE centre
- 10 March 2022 – leaflet distribution Balerno, Currie and Westerhailes
- 17 March 2022 - Slateford Green Community Gathering
- 23 March 2022- Cameron toll Shopping Centre
- 13 April 2022- Corstorphine Peer Support Group
- 18 April 2022 – LRT transport hub, Waverley station
- 19 April 2022 - Edinburgh College, Calder Road
- 21 April 2022 - Slateford Green Community Gathering
- 22 April 2022 – in the Meadows Festival
- 7 May 2022 – North West Community Fair with I Am me
- 11 May 2022 – Head Injury Information Day at the Sheraton with I Am Me.
- 12 August 2022 – Broomhouse Street Party
- 29 September 2022- PHPs for NW & SE localities via MS Teams
- 10 November 2022- Slateford Green Community Gathering

Face to face training has also been delivered to staff and volunteers at the following venues and are now authorised Keep Safe Places:

- Waitrose – Morningside Road
- Museum on the Mound (Lloyds Banking Group)

- St Marys Cathedral – Palmerston Place
- Morningside Parish Church – Cluny Gardens
- Corstorphine Community Centre
- RBS – St Andrews Square and West End branches
- Compass: Therapy Support community - Leith
- Lothian Buses Travel Hubs – Shandwick Place and Waverley Bridge teams



Training for some venues and 25 libraries across Edinburgh has been delayed but is being prioritised to progress as soon as possible.

Partnership approach:

People who currently use, and or would use Keep Safe Places have attended training sessions to advocate and champion the model.

Disability support workers and staff from provider organisations have also contributed towards training sessions to offer insight into how best to support and assist a vulnerable person who has a specific condition; MS, HD, Aphasia etc.

Appendix 2: Current Keep Safe Places in Edinburgh [to be updated prior to Committee with any additional venues]

Organisation Name
AdvoCard
Broomhouse Space
Caley Picture House venue
Compass; Therapy Support Community
Co-op - Dalry Road
Corstorphine Community Centre
Crew
Edinburgh International Conference Centre
Fort Kinnaird
Gyle Shopping Centre
Al JD Wetherspoon venues
Life Care Edinburgh Ltd
Lothian Buses Hubs
Museum on the Mound (Lloyds Banking Group)
Morningside Parish Church
Norton Park (Albion Trust)
Pilmeny Development Project
Pilton Youth & Children's Project
Playfair
Police Scotland - Corstorphine Police Station
Police Scotland - Craigmillar Police Station
Police Scotland - Drylaw Mains Police Station
Police Scotland - Fettes Police Station
Police Scotland - Gayfield Square Police Station

Police Scotland - Howdenhall Police Station
Police Scotland - Leith Police Station
Police Scotland - St Leonards Police Station
Police Scotland - West End Police Station
Police Scotland - Wester Hailes Police Station
Royal Bank of Scotland, St Andrews Square branch
Royal Bank of Scotland, West End branch
Scottish Parliament Building
Social Bite
St Mary's Cathedral
The Alexander Graham Bell
The Dome
The Foot of The Walk
The Mash Tun
The White Lady Hotel, Corstorphine
The Yard
Volunteer Edinburgh
Waitrose, Morningside