



Barnet's Safe Places Scheme

Indoor venues including restaurants, cafes and community centres will be reopening fully from 21st June. **Barnet Mencap**, together with **Barnet Council** and the **Metropolitan Police**, are relaunching the **Barnet Safe Places Scheme** and we would welcome your support.

We are asking people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and autism where they feel safe when out in the community. We would be grateful if your clients could share their views in the attached survey.

We are aware that as the lockdown eases and society begins to re-integrate, many vulnerable people may feel anxious about being out in the community again.

The Barnet Safe Places Network aims to create a safe and strong community where people get along well and where we take a zero-tolerance approach to crime against our more vulnerable members.



Safe Places will help you if you are scared or lost in town.

What is the Safe Places Scheme?

A safe place helps vulnerable people if they feel scared, anxious or at risk while they are out in the community and need support right away. The safe place could be, for example, a café, a shop or supermarket, a library, or a community centre. Staff can help vulnerable people to phone a family member or carer and/or offer them somewhere safe to wait.

Barnet Safe Places is part of the National Safe Places Network which unites all the Safe Place (and Keep Safe) schemes across England and Wales. They run a website with information about all the networks' members.



The Barnet Safe Place Scheme was originally designed and put in place with ideas from local people with learning disabilities. We looked at places which people with learning disabilities and autism visited regularly and where they could seek temporary refuge if they were lost, frightened or in need of assistance.

Any business or organisation which offers to join the network of Safe Places will be provided with a window sticker with the Safe Places logo and information materials. Staff will be trained in learning disability awareness, autism awareness, hate crime reporting and an overview of safeguarding laws.

We will visit the business regularly to provide support and discuss any concerns that may arise, including possible hate crime incidents. Barnet Mencap is also a third-party **Hate Crime Reporting Centre** and can offer support to vulnerable adults should they wish to report hate crime to the Police or seek additional advice or support from a specialist organisation.



If you think you know of a suitable Safe Place location in Barnet, or for more information about the scheme, please contact: Reshma Hirani at Reshma.Hirani@barnetmencap.org.uk

