

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

North Lincolnshire Council Community Facilities

- SAFE SPACES for children and young people and vulnerable adults

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform cabinet on the current principles and practice of safe spaces in public facilities and outline the next steps in the development of community hub safe spaces.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire community hubs and public facilities are safe spaces for people of all ages. They provide a safe haven for someone who may feel vulnerable in the community should they need advice, support, reassurance or help. It is recognised that some people may need more help and support to feel safe in their local community.

Community hubs provide an environment for anyone who may feel vulnerable in the community to be able to go to should they need advice, support, reassurance, or help.

Based throughout North Lincolnshire, community hubs make it easier for residents to access information, advice and support and participate in activities to improve their health and wellbeing. Open to everyone, the hub spaces offer support and activity for residents to take steps to improve their wellbeing by:

- Connecting with us in person
- **Coming together in safe, accessible spaces**
- Getting involved in a wide range of activities
- Being enabled to improve health and wellbeing outcomes
- **Accessing information, advice and guidance**

- 2.2 Spaces and facilities that are available and accessible include: confidential, spaces located on ground floor, dementia and autism friendly environments, toilet facilities and safe spaces for residents of all ages to use facilities and engage in activities. Community hub spaces are open, welcoming, and free to

use, providing space for a diversity of users across all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

- 2.3 Alongside community hubs, the council operate a range of other public facilities such as leisure centres, cultural venues and visitor attractions and community libraries. All of these facilities offer access to general facilities such as toilets, a warm and welcoming space, enabling digital inclusion through free public Wi-Fi, information on local/national support agencies and networks displayed, e.g., on public information screens.
- 2.4 The development of a local safe spaces scheme for domestic abuse is a key work strand of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. There is a strategic link and line of sight between the Domestic Abuse Strategy Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and the Protection & Accountability Subgroup, Safe Organisations Group.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the council's community hubs and children's centres/family hubs will be more activity promoted as safe spaces for general low level all-age access, as well as a space where vulnerable adults can disclose safeguarding concerns - including domestic abuse. This will include the design and delivery of a campaign of awareness of domestic abuse in North Lincolnshire to encourage those experiencing domestic abuse to seek support.
- 3.2 This will include an improved public communication to share the general pledge of both the support available and how the facilities will actively promote and support all public to be part of our 'Safe Spaces' policy.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Ongoing resident and partnership feedback demonstrates that people want to feel confident when out in the community and for somewhere to go for help, advice and support.
- 4.2 By offering safe spaces in a range of council operated public facilities, the council are providing environments for people who may feel vulnerable in the community to be able to go to should they need advice, support, reassurance or help when out and about.
- 4.3 The principles of safe spaces is well aligned to the environment and IAG support available in libraries and community hubs and further training will support staff to develop their knowledge to support people disclosing information to get the help they need, which will prevent people from needing to keep retelling their story. This approach fits with the council's ethos to 'Making Every Contact Count' and 'Customer Service Standards'.
- 4.4 Further development and clear public messaging will support residents to understand the facility type and support available at the council operated public venues.

4.5 There is an opportunity to consider further roll out, as well as to influence and lead across place to encourage other partners and sectors to develop as 'safe spaces'.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 Within current resource levels – costs of additional training for the pilot from within Government Capacity Building funds.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 The safe spaces within community hubs falls within the remit of the council plan priority "Keeping People Safe and Well"

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 N/A

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 None

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To continue to develop and build upon on the current principles and practice of safe spaces across all front-facing council buildings and facilities.

9.2 To note that Community hub spaces are open, welcoming, and free to use, providing space for a diversity of users across all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

9.3 To note that all public facing council spaces include:

- dementia and autism friendly environments
- toilet facilities
- safe spaces for residents of all ages to use facilities and engage in activities
- a trained workforce who can ensure all residents of North Lincolnshire receive the support needed when entering a community facility
- access to information and help
- public Wi-Fi
- public messaging that is clear and readily available and accessible

Those facilities which feature a library customer service function also include:

- provision of confidential space for more complex conversations and appointments
- provision of specific IAG and support
- targeted groups and activities across all age groups

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: COMMUNITY ENABLEMENT

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire

Post Code
Author: Sandra Simmons
Date: 18 July 2022

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – Nil