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Safe from Harm

The Safe from Harm Service is commissioned by the Safer East Sussex Team on behalf of the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership. Our Safe from Harm

Service provides emotional and practical support to people at significant risk of harm from anti-social behaviour (ASB) and hate incidents by offering a casework service on an exclusive outreach basis, sometimes in people's homes.



Mark Dean, Safe from Harm Worker tells us about his work/role

"I receive most of the referrals from Sussex Police and Homework's who have assessed the person as high risk in terms of support they need as a result of experiencing the behaviour/incident. I make contact almost immediately and arrange to meet with them within 5 days. It's a service which people don't have to access if they don't feel it's for them and some people find having telephone contact is enough in the initial stages. During the first meeting I listen a lot and provide an opportunity for them to explain the issues they are experiencing first hand. Sometimes they shout or cry or display a mixture of emotions but this is all part of the process.

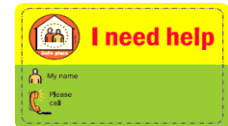
Each case varies enormously – it could be neighbours, graffiti, noise that is affecting them to the point they really need someone else to share it with and who can support them. Once I've captured the situation I will try and pick up on certain things I can support them with for example: getting graffiti removed quickly or liaising with environmental health – sometimes just simple actions help enormously. The approach we use is holistic and offers emotional support interlinked with practical support. This role can be creative and finding strategies with the person that will work with them is rewarding – it wouldn't work if I came up with all the ideas! I find the role very rewarding - to see someone at their very lowest point making progress and seeing physical changes as well as confidence levels rising is very rewarding". For further information on how to make a referral or more about the service please contact: safe.from.harm@ncda.org.uk



Safe Place Scheme Hailsham became the first town in East Sussex to join the national 'Safe Places' initiative, which helps people with learning disabilities deal with things that happen to them while they are out and about, such as harassment, bullying or if the person they are meeting doesn't turn up. It is a partnership between East Sussex Trading Standards, Adult Social Care, East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership and Sussex

Police. It is operational in Hailsham, and is now being extended to Hastings and St Leonards where it will be launched early this summer. The Safer East Sussex Team and Learning Disability Commissioning Team will be overseeing the development and management of the schemes.

How does it work? Businesses and public venues sign up to the scheme and we issue Safe Place stickers for them to display. People with learning disabilities carry an 'I need help' card with emergency contact details on. If a person with a learning disability needs help and goes somewhere showing a Safe Place sticker, the staff from the Safe Place will then either call the contact number on the 'I need help' card or Sussex Police if it is an emergency. The Safe place/Safer Places logo is nationally recognised which means safe places can be found all over the country.



Why do we need this scheme?

- People with learning disabilities are four times more likely than others to be robbed, with violence or threats.
- Nine out of 10 people with learning disabilities have been bullied in the last year.

What Safe Places have agreed to:

- Welcome those in need of a safe place and listen to their issue
- Help contact the named contact or the police in an emergency
- Offer a place to sit and wait within the public area of the premises
- Report any information they have heard or see that may be relevant to the emergency services, especially, if they think a crime has been committed
- Help the person to wait comfortably and safely until help/support arrives

Next steps...Development of a toolkit which will help people bring the scheme to their part of the county. The toolkit aims to provide:

- a step-by-step guide to setting up the scheme,
- a set of ready-made resources including information for businesses and Easy Read information for local people who will benefit from the scheme, and
- a list of the partner organisations to involve to ensure the scheme is a success. To find out more or to request the toolkit when it is ready later this year please contact: Bryn Mabey - Project Officer - Learning Disability Commissioning Bryn.Mabey@eastsussex.gov.uk 01273 337029 .

STREET PASTORS™

Street Pastors is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care and listen.

It was pioneered in London in January 2003 by Rev Les Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, and has seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working. There are now some 9000 trained volunteers in around 250 teams around the United Kingdom. There are currently six schemes running in East Sussex:

- Eastbourne
- Seaford
- Bexhill
- Crowborough
- Heathfield
- Hastings



What is a Street pastor? A Street Pastor is a Church leader/minister or member with a concern for society - in particular young people who feel themselves to be excluded and marginalised - and who is willing to engage people where they are, in terms of their thinking (i.e. their perspective of life) and location (i.e. where they hang out - be it on the streets, in the pubs and clubs or at parties etc).

The help and support the Street Pastors give to police is massive, across all five schemes in East Sussex this team of volunteers are out in the community, listening, helping and caring for the people. Good policing is all about prevention, in the challenging environment that the Pastors work they are able to achieve this through personal engagement which is often initiated by handing out a bottle of water, a pair of flip flops or providing a shoulder.

The Pastors really complement the work of the other services engaged in the evening economy, it is without doubt that their work save us all from additional demands and thereby allows us to focus on other issues. I have for a long time recognised the excellent work of the Pastors and fully support them in their role.

Neil Honnor Chief Superintendent East Sussex Division

For further information please see: <http://www.streetpastors.org.uk/Home/tabid/255/Default.aspx>



The Safer East Sussex Team on Twitter @SaferEastSx



The WISE Project is a young people's sexual exploitation project working with and supporting young people up to the age of 25 who are at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation. They have recently recruited 3 full time project workers who are now based across the county to support young people and professionals; one covering Hastings & Rother, another in Eastbourne and one in Lewes & Wealden. Referrals for support can come from any agency, as well as parents, carers and young people themselves. The project is also a point of call for advice and guidance for those working with young people who have suffered from sexual exploitation.

The Sussex Strategy to combat Child Sexual Exploitation has been agreed by all the agencies involved in Safeguarding Children's Steering Groups in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. The strategy informs the action or business plans of each steering group and LSCB which are in turn reviewed by the steering groups and scrutinised by the LSCBs. The strategy can be found at:

http://pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_sex_exploit.html

To find out more about The WISE Project or if you are experiencing or know someone who may be experiencing sexual exploitation please get in touch.

Email :WiSE Project Coordinator(East Sussex) clara.larribeau-wade@ymcadlg.org

Further information can be found at:

http://www.sussexcentralymca.org.uk/information_advice_support/wise_project

**SUSSEX
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD**

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership (SRJP) has now trained over 60 Restorative Justice (RJ) facilitators from Sussex Police, Probation, Victim Support, Sussex Pathways and PACT, to bring victims and offenders into communication to find a positive way forward in the aftermath of crime. Restorative Justice (RJ) gives victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of the crime and to get answers to their questions, whilst giving offenders the chance not just to feel or say sorry, but to do something about it. The work of SRJP is supported by the Sussex Criminal Justice Board and the office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. Anybody working with victims or offenders can make an RJ referral if they believe it will have a positive impact.

For more details on making a referral, please contact the East Sussex Co-ordinator Elize Shult: elize.shult@sussex.pnn.police.uk / 07788 3000390.

Leaflets for both victims and offenders that explain the process can be found here:

<http://www.sussexcriminaljusticeboard.org.uk/sussex-restorative-justice-partnership>

Integrated Offender Management in East Sussex

The IOM model was introduced across East Sussex in 2011 and led to the identification of a cohort of the most prolific offenders, the majority of whom were committing acquisitive crime. As part of the model a set of varied and creative interventions were introduced, the intention being to engage with the offenders and to reduce their offending. The interventions included multi – agency case management meetings, enhanced contact schedules with offenders, problem specific personal programmes (example Thinking Skills), reflective group work and multi agency project work.

IOM has been successful in East Sussex because partner agencies work positively together to not only provide positive enforcement when required but also to identify suitable support networks and be creative in developing projects and interventions for offenders all of which are aimed at reducing their re-offending and integrating them back into the community.

Martin Sapwell
IOM Manager East Sussex Division

Case study: One of the offenders within the IOM cohort is KH who is a 21 year with a criminal history dating back to when he was aged 13. His criminal convictions included seventeen theft related offences of which six were for burglary dwelling .KH was given the opportunity to attend the ‘*Seeds of Change Allotment Project*’* in lieu of a compulsory office appointment with his probation officer.

KH entered the project somewhat hesitantly but very soon became fully engaged with the ‘hands on’ elements and remained part of the team that planned, cleared, planted and maintained the allotment plot throughout the year. Through engaging with probation and police staff at the project, KH states he now has a more positive relationship with them and is able to engage in a more constructive way. Such has been his commitment to the project that he agreed to feature in a promotional video that was broadcast to the Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust annual staff conference in March.

KH has been pro-actively searching for employment despite the limitations of his criminal record and he secured a temporary job with a local company in September 2013 before securing a full time job with a different local firm in March 2014. Since KH was released from Prison in June 2013 he has not been arrested and if the current positive progress is maintained his PPO status is likely to be removed in the relatively near future.



The ‘Seeds of Change Allotment Project’ is a joint probation and police initiative where offenders work together on an allotment giving them an opportunity to accept responsibility, develop team building skills all of can lead to greater self esteem



Prince's Trust

Safer East Sussex Team - Project Updates

Prince's Trust – Involvement Matters Project

The Safer East Sussex Team have recently built relationships with the Involvement Matters team and Prince's Trust and are now collaborating on a project to raise awareness of learning disability hate crime.

- The involvement matters team are adults with learning disabilities who work for the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The Learning Disability Partnership Board is a group of people from Health, the Council, services and the community. They make plans and work to make life better for people with learning disabilities.
- The Prince's Trust is the UK's leading youth charity offering 16 to 25 year olds opportunities to develop confidence, learn new skills and get into work or start in business. The programmes are currently run in Newhaven and Eastbourne has great success with the majority of participants moving onto work, education or training. More than 70% of unemployed participants go on to jobs, training or education within three months of completing.

As part of the programme participants lead and take an active role in developing a community project - Community Safety is a theme that hasn't been developed before within the community project part of the programme but one which the leaders feel would be refreshing to look at with the participants.

Both groups met last week for an engagement event and to hear first hand how some adults with learning disabilities are affected by anti social behaviour and hate crime in their communities.

Next month participants will begin to develop a project from some of the ideas that were raised at the engagement event.

New ASB Tools and Powers Awareness Sessions

The Safer East Team have recently been delivering awareness raising sessions in relation to the the Reforming of Anti-Social Behaviour powers. The new tools and powers will be enacted later this year meaning housing providers, local authorities, police and all other organisations involved in ASB need to start preparing now.

- In preparation for the reformed ASB powers, we are planning to develop and deliver a localised training package for partners which would assist partners in the practical application of the new powers. We will obviously be drawing down content from the Home Office (ASB guidance), College of Policing, Chartered Institute of Housing etc – but want to tailor it to suit local partnership needs.
- These sessions are aimed to help raise awareness of what is coming and potentially source expert leads to contribute to the development of the local training package.
- The last session will be taking place on Wednesday 4th June at Hailsham Police Station 10.00 – 12.00 if you would like to attend please contact: lucy.spencer@eastsussex.gov.uk

Published by the Safer East Sussex Team

For more information about this newsletter or to submit articles please contact: Lucy Spencer:

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East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is supported by the Safer East Sussex Team