SAFE PLACE SCHEME

REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

For Information

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the Brigade's commitment to the Tees-wide 'Safe Place' Scheme which aims to provide a network of support for vulnerable people within communities across the Tees Valley area.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That Members note the report.

3. SAFE PLACE SCHEME

3.1 The 'Safe Place' Scheme is a nationwide support network for some of the most vulnerable people within our communities. It involves the identification of premises allocated as 'Safe Places' within local areas that support people to feel safer and reassured to live independently.

3.2 The idea behind the scheme is to assist vulnerable people if they are in danger; being victimised; suffering threat, hate crime or verbal abuse in the street; feeling vulnerable; are disabled; or people who may just need extra support.

3.3 The Tees-wide Safe Places scheme is coordinated by the Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) on behalf of all 4 Local Authorities. It operates across the Tees Valley by offering support and help on buildings where the symbol below is displayed.

3.4 Tees-wide Safe Places Scheme provides people with:

- Somewhere safe and friendly
- Staff to understand and give reassurance
- Staff to listen and provide help and advice
- Somewhere to make a phone call
- Information, signposting.

3.5 The Brigade recognises Safeguarding as a priority and this facility may also be a safe haven for more substantial issues e.g. anyone fleeing the trauma of abuse, exploitation, modern day slavery and human trafficking.

3.6 All of the Brigade's whole-time fire stations are now designated as 'Safe Places' assisting the Partnership initiative and enhancing community facilities. The Brigade's website, the TSAB site and the national Safe Places site have been updated for community user information and general awareness.

3.7 Further information on the scheme can be found at https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/find-support-in-your-area/safe-place-scheme/

IAN HAYTON
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

KAREN WINTER
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES