



Wokingham
Learning Disability
Partnership Board

Minutes from the Self Advocate Workshop

Bradbury Centre
Tuesday 1st November, 2011

Keeping Safe!

Introductions and Icebreaker

Peter welcomed everyone to today's workshop which was about **Keeping Safe**. There was lots of information about keeping safe on display for everyone to have a look at during the break.



The council, the police and other groups who work to keep us safe have written a survey to find out the views of people who live in the Wokingham borough. They want to know how safe we feel and what our experiences are of being safe. For the icebreaker, Frankie asked everyone to introduce themselves and answer a question from the survey. There was a mixture of answers!



The questions were:

Do you always lock up your home when you are going out?



Do you always always lock up your home when you are staying in?



Do you answer the door after dark?



If a stranger calls at your house, do you check their identity?



Do you hide away special things in your house when you go out?



What do you do to keep safe?



Do you have a burglar alarm in your home that you use when you go out?



Do you have a personal alarm that you carry with you?

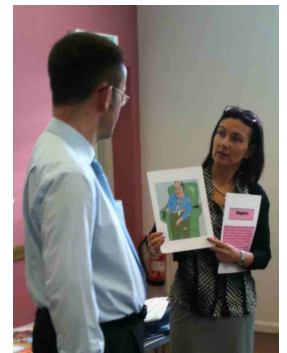


Most people locked up the house when they leave home, but didn't always lock the doors when they were in. Some people will not answer the door after dark. People knew that you should ask a stranger's identity if they knock at your door – but how do you know if their badge is real? Some people hide away their special things, but few people had a personal alarm or burglar alarm.



Norwood Course – Keep Safe, Keep Well

Juanita introduced everyone to Julie Goodyear, Jeanette Cooper and Peter Girvan from Norwood who came to tell us about their course called "Keep Safe, Keep Well". Peter had been on the course so was able to give us a good idea of what went on.



On the course, they talk about abuse. **What is abuse?** It is when someone does something to you that you don't like or it makes you feel upset or angry.

Here are some of the different types of abuse:

Physical

Hitting, spitting etc



Emotional/Mental

Saying hurtful things



Sexual

Touching your private parts when you don't want them to.



Discriminatory

Picking on you for your religion, race or sex



Financial

Taking money



Neglect

Not being looked after properly



They talk about ways people can **stop** these things from happening. For example, telling people we trust – someone in our family, our staff member, or the police. Telling someone will stop the person doing it to you again, and stop them from doing it to someone else.



They also talk about how people might **feel**. For example they might feel sad, angry or upset. If someone is feeling angry because they are being hurt, they might turn on someone else – but that would be wrong.



They talk about **who** can abuse you. The answer is anyone can abuse you, but not everyone is an abuser. What do you say if someone is abusing you? **You say NO!!**

And they talk about **where** abuse takes place – which can be anywhere! But don't be scared to go out. We need to be confident to go out and do the things we enjoy – but we need to make sure we keep safe. For example carrying a mobile phone with us, telling someone where we are going, and going out with other people.



The course also talks about **keeping well** and looking after yourself.

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The next "Keep Well, Keep Safe" course starts on **Tuesday 10th January** at Ravenswood Village and costs £20. The sessions are on Tuesdays from 1pm-3.15pm and run for 7 weeks. Everyone on the course gets a certificate and a pack with lots of information and safety tips, and a card with important phone numbers. People said the course gave them confidence to speak up and to trust others. We think it's a really good way of making people feel safe!



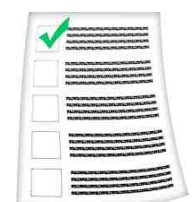
To book onto the January course (or the following one starting in April), ring the Karten Centre on tel: 01344 755586 or email: karen.thackray@norwood.org.uk

Safe Communities Survey, 2011

The Wokingham Community Safety Partnership is asking people who live here to answer questions about crime and disorder in the area. The Partnership will use the answers to work towards making people feel safer.



The survey is very long but it is important that everyone fills one in because it is about our safety! If you need help to fill in the form, you can go to Rose Buddies, CLASP or the Partnership Board. Each form comes with a free stamped addressed envelope so the survey can be sent back to the Council for free.



At today's workshop, there wasn't time for everyone to fill out their forms, so Julie went through each question and we focussed on some of the ones that we thought were important. We did some group exercises around those questions to help people think how they might answer them when they fill in their form at home.



Here are a few of those questions:

Anti-social Behaviour

What is anti-social behaviour? We came up with lots of suggestions!

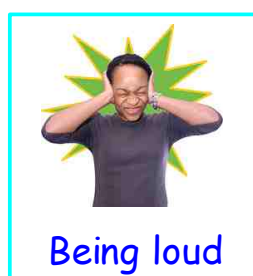
Here are a few of them:



Graffiti



Getting drunk



Being loud



Bad parking

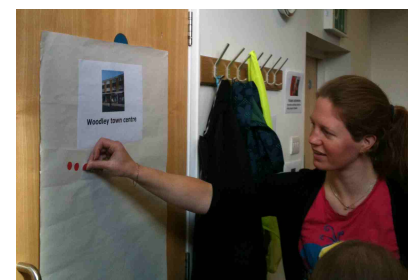


Dog mess

The survey asks people if they think there is anti-social behaviour in these places:

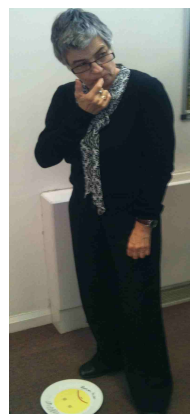
- Wokingham town centre
- Woodley town centre
- Twyford town centre
- Lower Earley (around Asda and Chalfont Way)
- The Showcase cinema

Jodie had put posters on the wall of these 5 places, and if people had seen anti-social things going on there, they stuck a red dot on the poster. The results showed that 5 people had seen anti-social behaviour in Woodley town centre, 4 people had seen it in Wokingham town centre, 2 people had seen it at the Lower Earley centre and 2 people had seen it at their local shops.



Feeling safe during the day and after dark

The questionnaire had some questions about how we feel during the day and after dark. To help everyone think about it, Jodie put 5 'faces' on the floor. The faces started off with a smiley face ('I feel very safe') and finished with an unhappy face ('I feel very unsafe'). Julie read the questions on the form, and everyone stood next to the face that showed how safe they felt.

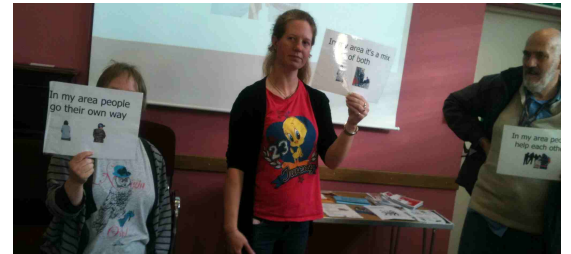


The results showed that mostly we did feel safe during the day which is good, but not very safe when it was dark. Some things that made us feel unsafe during the day included the busy roads and pavements that aren't cleared when it snows.



Crime

The Wokingham Borough is one of the safest places to live in the whole of England because there isn't a lot of crime. But people still feel scared that it might happen. Julie had made 3 different cards that Peter, Juanita and Fiona held up. The cards said:



In my area,
people help me.

In my area, people
go their own way.

In my area, there
is a mix of both.

Lots of people stood next to the sign *"in my area people help me"*. A few people stood next to the *"mix of both"* sign. And no-one stood next to the last sign! This shows that most of us feel that our neighbours and people in the community are pretty helpful.

3 things that the Police and Council should spend money on.

There were lots of suggestions of what the Police and Council could spend money on to make the Borough safer. We put up posters of all the different ideas and gave everyone 3 money signs so they could choose their top 3. These were the top 3 choices:



Drug abuse
7 votes



Disability Hate Crime
6 votes



Rubbish & litter
5 votes

The other choices were:

Vandalism

4 votes

Fraud (people cheating you out of money in any way)

4 votes

Violent assault

4 votes

- Selling alcohol to children under 18yrs 4 votes
- Domestic abuse (all types of abuse between people who live together) 3 votes
- Intimidation/harassment (threats and bullying) 3 votes
- Noisy neighbours 3 votes
- Dog mess not being cleared up 3 votes
- Vandalism to cars 2 votes
- Sexual abuse or attacks 2 votes
- Graffiti 2 votes
- Theft from cars 2 votes
- Homophobic crime (crime against people because they are gay) 1 vote
- Stealing cars 1 vote
- Mugging or robbery 1 vote
- Violent extremism (terrorism and being violent to other groups of people) 1 vote
- Crime against people who have a different religion or who are from a different race 0 votes



The final choice was "Is there something else you think we should be trying to stop?"

A suggestion was to stop people kicking footballs at houses.

3 things that the Police and Council could do to make you feel safer.

We did the same thing again but this time with posters of how the Police and Council could make us feel safer. We gave everyone 3 stickers so they could choose their top 3. There was quite a mix in the results, but here are our top 3 choices:




More police on the streets
10 votes



More CCTV cameras
7 votes



Better street lighting
7 votes

The other choices were:

- Work to stop people using drugs and drinking too much 6 votes
- Work harder to catch people who do wrong 6 votes
- More Community Wardens to work with the police 5 votes

Work more on stopping bad behaviour	5 votes
Work with local groups to stop problems in their area	5 votes
Come out faster for emergency calls	4 votes
Work with families to stop anti-social behaviour	4 votes
Look at ways of stopping crime happening	2 votes
Put more effort into Neighbourhood Watch schemes	2 votes
Use Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) more	1 vote
More 'fixed penalty notices'	0 votes
Set up more things for young people to do	0 votes



Safety Groups

There was also a section about the different safety groups in our area:

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Empty Car Campaign
- Community Wardens
- Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG)
- Pub Watch (landlords get together and if someone is barred from one pub, they are barred from all pubs in the area)
- Graffiti Hotline



But there was no mention of Safer Places! We will tell the council that this is an important scheme that helps us feel safe.



Anything Else?

On the back of the survey, there is a space to write a bit about yourself. The Community Safety Partnership want to understand which groups of people are answering their questions. This is so they can see, for example, if people from a particular ethnic community feel more unsafe than others. We noticed that there wasn't a section for people with disabilities, so we will tell them that as well!



It is very important to tell the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership what you think they should be doing to make your community a safer place to live. Everyone's survey with their own information will make a difference so **remember to fill out a form and send it back to the Council.** If you would like another copy for a friend, ask one of the groups.

That was the end of our Workshop!

Our next workshop will be on
Tuesday 13th December at the
Bradbury Centre, 10am-12noon
where we will be talking about

How to be a good Co-Chair

