

## **1. DCDP Case Study: Advocating Together, Dundee**

The idea of the Dundee Safe Place Initiative came from our Advocators, a team of adults with a learning disability (LD) and/or autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) who are employed by Advocating Together. In 2014, they were tasked by Dundee Strategic Planning Group to create a vision for Dundee in the year 2020.

One of their wishes was: "Keeping everyone safe, having respect, fairness and upholding human rights will be everyone's business". This statement, along with the changes that inevitably will need to be made to an unsustainable social care system, was the driving force to create the Dundee Safe Place Initiative (DSPI).

The Steering group helped form the plan for developing the DSPI, which had nine outcomes. The timescale originally envisaged has taken longer than expected, due to issues beyond our control, therefore the plan has had to be revisited on a couple of occasions.

It became clear that it made sense to change developing Safe Places and sign up with *Keep Safe - I Am Me Scotland*, which was already established in Renfrewshire and had the backing of Police Scotland. Making this decision, initially led to a hold up in the project, seeing us officially launch *Keep Safe in Dundee* in May 2016.

Criteria checks are an essential part of *Keep Safe*. Internal Police Scotland processes meant that there was a delay in getting new *Keep Safe* premises on board, but a new protocol allowed us to move forward, in October 2016, and facilitate the roll out of *Keep Safe* places and *Keep Safe* cards in Dundee.

We are currently concentrating on the development of Imaginative Communication to help people communicate better with adults with learning disabilities and/or autistic spectrum disorders. This need has arisen from developing *Keep Safe Places* and the networks we are associated with.

Since starting the *Dundee Safe Place Initiative*, we have reached a wider range of people, including the elderly and those with mental health issues, and made links with different organisations. We work directly with people with LD and/or ASD, who have been consulted and are part of the journey. We have 17 *Keep Safe Places* in Dundee and have delivered *Keep Safe* training to over 125 people. Over the summer, Dundee had the Oor Wullie bucket trail and, on the back of this, we had a very successful Facebook campaign advertising *Keep Safe*, the 'Bobby Bucket Trail'.

We have also developed some strong relationships with other Rank-funded projects, including Dundee Comics Creative Space (DCCS) who designed our Advocator Superhero characters. More recently, artists and young people and artists from DCCS have worked with the Advocators to produce the 'Tackling Disability Hate Crime' comic. We have also worked with the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers to give them the knowledge to help distribute *Keep Safe* cards to vulnerable people. Our Director created a podcast with the young people from Bauer's Media's #MissionAmbition; they were given a spot at our *Keep Safe* launch to talk about their project and share the podcast.

We work closely with the Dundee Community Safety Partnership with the aim of helping people to keep themselves safe through awareness raising workshops and the *Be Safe, Keep Safe* programme that Advocating Together help to design.

Our Advocators are paid for more hours of employment, they are all WorldHost trained and have been key in delivering *Keep Safe* training, events, and distributing *Keep Safe* cards at a variety of venues. This has boosted confidence and provided opportunities to meet people from different organisations who they may not come across in a normal day's work. It has also boosted the profile of the Advocators and they are increasingly being asked to 'Meet and Greet' at events.

We have learned that true partnership working is not easy and takes a lot of work. In building a wide and diverse steering group and networks, we have been able to secure other small grants that have helped in the development of the Dundee Safe Place Initiative and further the work of Advocating Together and Independent Advocacy.

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