

Let's look at... **Safe Places**

Through The Maze met **Chris Campbell** from Aspire who told us about Safe Places in Leeds.



My name is Chris and I am a Safe Places trainer.

Safe Places is a scheme for people with a learning disability.

It is for people who travel independently.

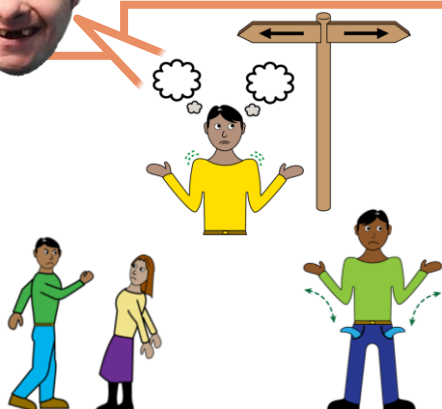
It is so people can feel safe when they are out in the community.



How does the Safe Places scheme work?

It is for people when they are out.

They can use it if they are lost, or if they are being bullied, or if they have lost their money or bus pass.



They can go to a nearby Safe Place that has joined the scheme.



When people join the scheme they get a **wristband** and a **card**.

They can show the wristband to the staff at a Safe Place. And they can show it to the police. This is to say they want some help.

A form for a 'safe place' card. It has a section for 'my name' with a photo of a person and a field for 'my name is'. There is also a section for 'help' with a photo of a person and a field for 'please call'. At the bottom, it says 'to get me help'.

The card has the phone number for a family member or support worker or trusted person.



The staff at the Safe Place can ring that number to get some help for the person.

How do people find Safe Places?



There is an app that shows all the Safe Places across the country.

People can use this to find the nearest Safe Place.



And Safe Places have a sticker in their window.





It is rare that people need to use Safe Places.

But knowing they are there helps people feel confident.

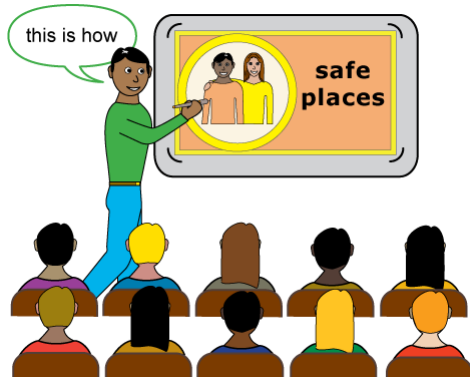
It is important people can be included and enjoy our lives.



What is the training you do?

I go to businesses who want to be Safe Places and tell them about the scheme.

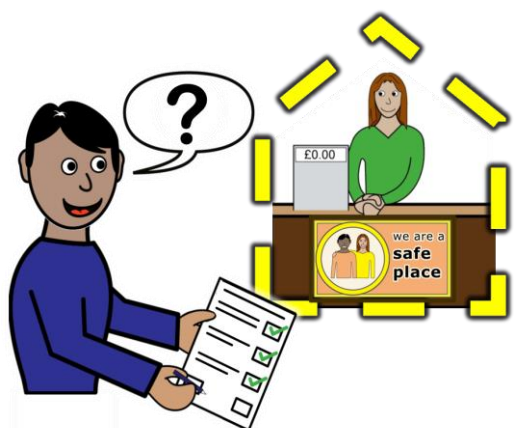
This includes places like shops, stations, and community centres.



There are about 200 Safe Places in Leeds.

We are doing work to check they are still open and working well.

We are offering to go back and do training again so newer staff have it.





How do people find out more and join the Safe Places scheme?



In Leeds the scheme is run by Aspire for Leeds City Council.

The Aspire website tells you about the Leeds Safe Places scheme.

To join the scheme people just need to fill in a simple form.



Here is a link to the Safe Places page on the Aspire website:

tinyurl.com/AspireSafePlaces

Or scan the QR code.



Thanks Chris. It is great to hear about the Safe Places scheme. What else are you involved in?



Lots of things!

I have done a podcast with Aspire. It is called Chris's Chat.

There will be another one out in January 2024.



To see Chris's podcast use this link tinyurl.com/ChrisChat1

Or scan the QR code.