

## How to Keep Yourself Safe

Going on a night out with your mates? With some awareness and just a little pre-planning, you and your friends can make the most of any night out together, whilst making sure you stay safe too.

If you're in Huddersfield Town Centre on a night out, you might spot the 'Night Safety Bus'.

The Night Safety Bus is there to give you a safe space if you need it. Their friendly staff can also provide advice and help on things like drug and alcohol issues. If you need help or just a place you know you'll be safe whilst you wait for friends or a ride home, be sure to say hello.

### Before you go out:

- Make sure someone knows where you're going and who you're meeting up with
- Charge your phone
- Avoid carrying huge amounts of money with you in case it is lost or stolen. Try to take the amount you think you will need.
- Have a plan for the end of the night – how are you getting home and who with? Make sure you have money to cover the cost

### Stay together:

- Stick together – losing your mates can be a stressful experience
- Agree a meeting point in case you need it. If you're in Huddersfield Town Centre, the Night Safety Bus would be an ideal place for this. Group chats and map pins can help people remember where the meeting point is
- Be aware of your surroundings and try to stay in well-lit areas
- You know your mates best. If you're concerned your friend has drunk too much alcohol and are showing signs of being worse for wear by the end of the night, make sure they get home safe. If a friend is acting strange and you think could be under the influence of drugs, get appropriate help immediately.

### Drink responsibly and keep your eye on your drink:

- Know your limits when it comes to alcohol so you're capable of getting yourself home safely
- Whilst it is rare, be aware of spiking. You can protect yourself by not leaving your drink unattended and never taste anyone else's drink or accept a drink from someone you don't know
- If you think your drink tastes funny, take it back to the bar and tell venue staff.
- If you, or a friend, think you've been spiked, tell someone you trust or venue staff immediately. Get to a safe space as soon as possible, but don't go anywhere alone. The Night Safety Bus in Huddersfield Town Centre is a safe space if you need it.

### 'Ask for Angela'

If something doesn't feel right, Ask for Angela. If you're in a participating venue and something just doesn't feel right (maybe you're getting unwanted attention, you feel unsafe, vulnerable or threatened) find a member of venue staff and 'Ask for 'Angela'.

This signals to the member of staff that you need discreet help to get out of the situation. They will offer help, for example they could take you somewhere out of public view, make sure you're safely reunited with a friend, see you to a taxi, involve venue security or, in more serious situations, call the police.

Participating venues are encouraged to display material to show they support the scheme, so watch out for it.

Visit [Stay safe on a night out, just Ask for Angela](#) for further information.

### Travel safely:

- Pre-arrange for 'des' (a designated driver) to give others a lift home or ask to be picked up by a family member or friend
- Wait for your ride home in a well-lit, public place
- Pre-book taxis wherever possible and only use the one that you have pre-booked
- Check the taxi is licenced. There will be a plate on the rear of the vehicle if it is. Don't be tempted to get into a vehicle that doesn't have this plate on
- The only taxis you should use without pre-booking are our distinctive white Hackney's, which also have a sign saying 'Taxi' on the roof
- If you are concerned whether a taxi driver is licenced, ask to see their licenced ID badge, which will have their picture on. They shouldn't mind you asking as they are required to wear it at all times when they are working
- If you are on a bus at night, it may be safer to sit in the lower deck
- If you're walking home, don't walk alone and stick to well-lit paths, even if it's a slightly longer route. Walk so you're facing oncoming traffic. Don't listen to music and stay aware of your surroundings. If you think someone is following you, cross the road. If possible, stop in a public area like petrol station, takeaway or pub and call the police

### Respect Others:

- Everyone deserves to have their boundaries respected. Be conscious of how people respond to you on a night out. If someone doesn't want to talk to you, you could be making them feel uncomfortable, so leave them alone
- It doesn't matter how much you or others have had to drink, never touch someone without their consent
- If someone is bothering you, approach staff at participating venues and 'Ask for Angela'

### Immediate help and reporting crime:

- If it feels like a situation could get heated or violent very soon, you're in immediate danger or it's an emergency, always call 999
- For non-emergency situations or crime, you can call the Police on 101, use 101LiveChat, or make an online report to [West Yorkshire Police](#)
- If you feel you've been the victim of a hate crime because of who you are, your religion, sexual orientation or identity, report it: [Hate incident reporting](#)
- You can help to keep our streets safer by reporting crime anonymously: [StreetSafe Crimestoppers](#).

#### Other useful information:

If you are outside of college and feel unsafe Huddersfield have street marshals and street angels. Follow Street Angels Huddersfield on Facebook for more information.

There is also an app which you can download called Walk Safe: <https://walksafe.io/>