

# SAFE SPACE

## Safe Space Overview November 23-January 24.



### Introduction

SAFE SPACE is an increasingly recognised term for partnership schemes (often based in buses or town centre buildings) that operate to make the night-time economy safer. Typically, safe spaces provide a combination of medical assessment, supervised recovery, and discharge. Although safe space clients are relatively limited in number, they often exhibit one or more of the following: injury, intoxication (from alcohol or illegal drugs) and vulnerability. Safe spaces may also provide other services, such as pastoral care, help for rough sleepers and advice to those who are lost or need to get home. Some safe spaces also provide a physical base for partners managing their local night-time economy.

Leamington town centre has the busiest and most diverse nighttime economy in Warwickshire. There are multiple bars, clubs and restaurants which attract large numbers of visitors especially over the weekend, this includes a sizeable student presence.

### **Why Leamington?**

The recent Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment shows that Leamington Town Centre has the highest number of reported incidents of serious violence in the district, the majority of these incidents relate to the nighttime economy. In addition, the Leamington Town Centre Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) has the second highest reported incidents of Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) and Anti-social behaviour offences in Warwickshire.

### **Location, Service Provided & Partner Engagement.**

- To enhance feelings of safety and protect vulnerable people from harm, the Warwick District Council Community Safety team are piloting a Safe Space provision in Leamington Town Centre.
- The Safe Space operates every Friday from 10pm-4am.
- The location for the Safe Space is South Lodge on the Parade which is ideally situated on the main migration route to and from the Town Centre.
- Serious Violence funding enabled the appointment of a Safe Space Coordinator who is responsible for the operational management of the scheme.
- Various agencies occupy the Safe Space's main room during operational hours to offer support, advice, and signposting. Agencies include Warwickshire Police, Street Pastors, and other support services such as Change Grow Live, P3 and first aid provision.
- The Safe Space office is used for confidential discussions such as statement taking or risk assessments.

### **How is the Safe Space Funded?**

Warwick District Council has received a variety of funding streams to support the Community Safety agenda. Serious Violence and UKSPF funding totalling just over £10,000 has been used for the pilot period (Nov 23-April 24). The funding has been used to cover:

- Safe Space Coordinator role
- Promotional materials
- Medical supplies
- Anti Spiking resources
- Internal CCTV
- Installation of new easy clean flooring.

Warwick District Council has already submitted a further bid to the Home Office Serious Violence Fund 24/25 for an additional £6000 to sustain the initiative for a further 6 months. We expect to receive an outcome from the Home Office by the end of February 24.

### **The Story So Far**

The Safe Space Initiative is now into its 14<sup>th</sup> week of operation. There has been a broad range of interactions with those using the nighttime economy and commuting through the town centre. The Safe Space has been well used by Leamington's student population; many have popped in to charge their phones or collect resources including drink spiking test strips which we hand out for free. It's been heartening to hear that our student community and the wider public feel a little safer in the knowledge the Safe Space is there to support them if needed.

The Safe Space, as expected has been on hand to assist those who have had 'one too many'. Our medical area has enabled staff to assess a person's condition and where necessary provide basic first aid. To date only one ambulance has needed to attend, with many visitors able to return home with the support of family & friends.

In addition to intoxication cases, the Safe Space has played an important role in supporting those suffering from Domestic Abuse and Mental Health. Some of these interactions have been complex and have required a great deal of empathy and compassion to ensure we are delivering a high-quality service to those in their time of need.

We are delighted with the support we are receiving from partner agencies and volunteers such as the Street Pastors, Safe Line, Warwick University and Warwickshire Police. This

collaborative approach clearly demonstrates our shared goals of keeping Leamington a safe place at night and protecting vulnerable people from harm.

### Quotes

***“I hope everything went well on your first night in operation and that the council and locals appreciate the service that's been provided for them.***


***As I said last night the two hour wait for an ambulance or the thought of even longer waiting in an A&E wasn't something that filled you with encouragement so to have this facility conveniently around the corner turned out to be a godsend so particular thanks to you and your colleagues for providing this sanctuary together with your professionalism and caring attitude that allowed us to get to the point where we felt we could safely return home and take it from there.***

***Hopefully not too busy a night for you albeit it must be quite heartwarming to be able to help in this manner and see individuals walk out of there a whole lot better than when they came in.***

***Best wishes for future success and many many thanks for all your efforts last night .... the cuppa tea wasn't bad either”.***

***“Just to let you know that xxxxx is OK thank you. And a big thanks for your help and bringing him home”.***

***“Thank you so much for your help arranging for my girlfriend to get home safe”.***

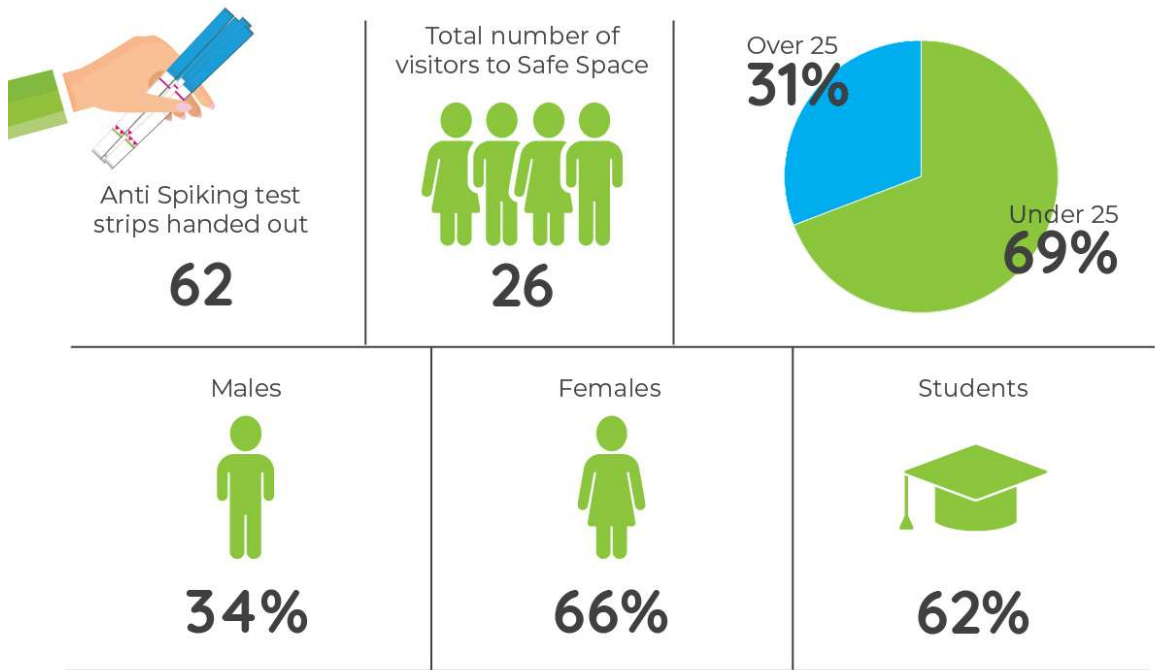
***“Really great idea, well done WDC!”*** 

***“Good to see people's safety being looked after, fab idea”.***

**Safe Space in Numbers**

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**UPDATE**  
November 2023 — January 2024



**Types of Incidents/Interactions**



## **Leamington Safe Space Internal & Medical Area**

The Safe Space consists of a main reception room and seating area where triage, support, and signposting take place. There is a confidential office space which can be utilised when needed and a medical area which is pictured below.

The Safe Space also has a kitchenette and toilet facilities.



## **Further Information**

Promotion of our Safe Space Initiative on the [Council's](#) Facebook page saw an impressive:

- 623 reactions
- 86,703 impressions
- 582 shares

**A further review will be circulated at the end of April 24.**

[Friday night Safe Space - BBC Sounds](#)

<https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/safespace>

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