

The Partnership Charter for the Night Time Economy



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Introduction



The term “night time economy” was invented in the UK. It is a much-loved part of our national culture, describing the totality of activities in towns and cities from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. including traditional night time activities such as pubs, restaurants, clubs and music venues, theatres and cinemas, and high street newcomers such as competitive socialising and experiential venues. It goes much further than just consumption: gyms, galleries and even late opening community facilities such as libraries and medical centres are also part of the picture. And transportation workers, health professionals and police all work in the night time economy too, as of course do hospitality workers.

The night time economy is a place of joy: where families, friends and communities meet to enjoy themselves and express their common humanity. But there are externalities, including impacts on neighbours, and on the safety of those visiting and working in the night time economy itself. In recent years, some elements of the night time economy have come under threat, particularly pubs, clubs and music venues, for reasons too many to list here, and so are also deserving of our protection. Meanwhile, hard-stretched public authorities, including police and health services, work with venues to protect the public and reduce the need for formal and costly interventions.

The UK leads the world in the way communities have come together to create partnership initiatives to protect and promote the night time economy, and those who visit, work in and live around it. It is a reflection of our nation at its best, mobilising together for the common good, whether that is protecting women, making nightlife more accessible, or highlighting the attractions of the night time economy locally. It means people giving up their free time to stand in public places administering welfare, leading forums, sticking up posters and mentoring their peers.

This has happened because regulation by itself is not enough to create safe and vibrant night time economies. Regulation is important. But it has never opened a pub, invented electronic music or created a great late night burrito. And nor did it think of Purple Flag, Best Bar None or Pubwatch, or write a vision for the night time economy. For that you need creative, committed and concerned citizens, working together in partnership.

This Charter is a celebration of partnership working in the night time economy. But more than that, it is an invitation to you, the reader, to commit to partnership. And, whether you are starting or continuing your journey, all you have to do is sign the Charter. It might then mean a small step, such as introducing Ask for Angela in your pub. Or it might lead you to play a more active role in a local partnership. By signing, you help to turn the whole idea of partnership from a series of local initiatives into a national movement.

This Charter is the start of something. Please join us.

Philip Kolvin KC

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The Partnership Charter for the Night Time Economy

➤ PURPOSE

The night time economy plays a key role in the social, cultural and economic life of our towns and cities and contributes to the government's national growth agenda.

The stakeholders of the night time economy include businesses, their workers, their visitors, their neighbours and their regulators.

This Partnership Charter aims to provide a framework for all stakeholders to work together to maximise the benefits of the night time economy while minimising any negative impacts.

➤ VISION

To create a thriving, diverse, innovative and inclusive night time economy that meets the social and cultural needs of the community, and promotes investment, employment and tourism, while maintaining high standards of well-being and safety for all.

➤ VALUES

The core values of this Charter are:

- **Partnership.** We will work together as partners, sharing our knowledge and resources, to achieve our Vision.
- **Inclusivity.** We recognise that the night time economy must serve the needs of the whole community.
- **Vibrancy.** We celebrate the vibrancy of the night time economy and welcome evolution and innovation.
- **Solution-finding.** We respect the views of our partners and embrace joint working to find solutions to challenges.
- **Well-being and safety.** We will promote high standards to protect workers, visitors and neighbours.
- **Prevention.** We will work together to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- **Sustainability.** We support a night time economy which is sustainable and protects the environment.

➤ PARTIES

All signatories to this Charter are Parties to it. By signing, they state their support for the Vision and Values, and their agreement to the Charter Principles.

The signatories to the Charter are trade associations, venues, operators, business and other suppliers working in the night time economy, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), local authorities, combined authorities, other statutory bodies, residential associations, professional bodies, civic and amenity societies and business improvement districts.

➤ LEGAL STATUS

The Charter is a framework for positive and collaborative working. It is a statement of support for the Vision, Values and Charter Principles. It does not create legal obligations.



Charter Principles

A thriving night time economy

1. We are committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to support a thriving, diverse, innovative and inclusive night time economy.
2. We will advocate for the value of the night time economy to the economic, cultural and social life of our community.
3. We will develop a vision and strategy for our night time economy in partnership with all stakeholders.
4. We will support the night time economy as a whole through social marketing and promotion.
5. We will encourage the establishment of small businesses through mentoring, resources and support.
6. We support common training and information-sharing for businesses, workers, regulatory authorities and communities, including in the Charter Principles.

An inclusive night time economy

7. We will develop a night time economy which meets the needs of all users, regardless of their age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socio-economic status or interests.
8. We will provide a night time economy which is accessible to people with disabilities both in venues and in public spaces.
9. We will make the licensing process inclusive by making it as simple as possible, affordable for small businesses, and ensuring documents and policies are short and written in plain English.

A safe night time economy

10. We are committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to protect our workers, visitors and neighbours.

11. We will share our resources to improve collective knowledge of licensing and other legal requirements.
12. We support safe spaces and welfare and safeguarding initiatives in the public realm.
13. We will work to increase public awareness of accepted standards of conduct both in venues and in public spaces.
14. We will promote responsible alcohol consumption including through education and staff training.
15. We will develop training and schemes for welfare in venues and public spaces.
16. We will provide initiatives protecting the health, including mental health, of those working in the night time economy.
17. We will support action against people who commit crimes in licensed premises.

A sustainable night time economy

18. We support environmental measures and programmes in the night time economy, including recycling, waste-minimisation, energy efficiency and use of local suppliers.
19. We support sustainable transport solutions, including public transport and active travel programmes.

Support for programmes

20. We will support voluntary programmes which contribute to the vibrancy and safety of the night time economy.

Working with communities

21. We will establish a night time economy forum for businesses, communities and regulators to discuss issues and develop agreed solutions.
22. We will encourage meetings between businesses and neighbours to discuss plans and concerns.
23. We will support schemes for mediation of any issues between venues and neighbours.
24. We will protect neighbours from unwanted noise through proper promotion of agent of change, building standards and schemes for sound mitigation.

A Collaborative Approach

25. We will promote the importance and benefits of dialogue and transparency between venues and statutory authorities.
26. We encourage statutory authorities to offer guidance, mentorship and informal advice, creating strong relationships and a supportive approach to compliance.
27. We will champion a positive culture of incident reporting by developing agreed practices that can be adapted to meet local requirements.
28. We will explore ways to improve how data is gathered, categorised and shared locally, ensuring it is used consistently and fairly to inform decision-making.
29. We will develop a collaborative approach for venue inspections, that can be adapted to local requirements, to minimise the time and cost burden on statutory authorities and venues, and ensure consistent recording.
30. We will develop best practice processes for action planning, including maintaining and sharing records of meetings between venues and authorities.
31. We support the principle of a stepped approach to solving problems together, and recognise that in the most serious situations, or where the stepped approach has not been effective, immediate enforcement action may need to be taken.
32. We support a regulatory framework that is enabling rather than restrictive. Any burdens and restrictions should be proportionate and introduced only when genuinely necessary, with careful consideration of lighter-touch alternatives.

Measuring and celebrating success

33. We will develop methods to measure the success of this Charter at local level.
34. We will recognise and build on our success in meeting our shared objectives.

Commentary on the Charter Principles



A thriving night time economy

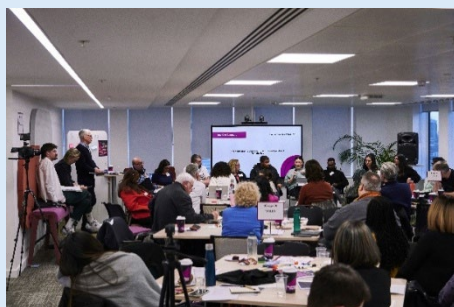
Principle 1: We are committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to support a thriving, diverse, innovative and inclusive night time economy.

While a vibrant night-time economy benefits everyone in a community, achieving this takes work. A successful night-time economy can bring economic benefits, social interaction, and cultural enrichment, but it also requires careful management to minimise potential downsides like noise complaints, safety concerns, and conflicts with residential areas.

The most effective management of the night time economy is through a partnership approach involving collaboration between stakeholders, including local authorities, police, the licensed trade, and community groups, to support opportunities for growth and innovation while addressing challenges that may arise with effective and proportionate solution-based responses.

Key aspects of a partnership approach:

- **Joint efforts:** Local authorities, police, and licensed trade work together to address issues like alcohol-related harms, crime, and disorder.
- **Shared responsibility:** A shared understanding of the challenges and a collective commitment to finding solutions.
- **Information sharing:** Partnerships facilitate the exchange of information, intelligence, and resources to promote preventive actions.
- **Coordination and engagement:** Effective coordination between different agencies and stakeholders ensures that initiatives are well-aligned and that local communities are involved.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Regularly assessing the impact of interventions helps to identify what works and what needs improvement.



Stakeholder Assembly

In creating the Westminster After Dark Strategy, Westminster City Council created a Stakeholder Assembly, including residents, the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London, local businesses, community organisations and residents' associations, using a method which randomly selected participants across the borough to ensure representativeness. The assembly was held over three consecutive weekends with expert facilitation, with each day dedicated to a specific phase of the discussion. This helped to ensure that the eventual

strategy represented a fair balance between the vibrant West End night time economy and other stakeholders.

[*Westminster After Dark Strategy 2025 – 2040: City of Westminster, 2025,*](#)

Principle 2: We will advocate for the value of the night time economy to the economic, cultural and social life of our community.

The night-time economy is crucial for both financial and societal well-being, contributing significantly to local economies, supporting jobs, and shaping urban environments. It brings in billions of pounds to the UK economy annually and attracts both locals and tourists. Beyond financial benefits, the night-time economy enriches cultural life, fosters community interaction, and provides leisure opportunities. The night time economy also acts as an incubator for creativity and innovation, bringing together diverse groups of people and fostering collaboration.



Purple Flag

Purple Flag is an international accreditation that recognises excellence in the night-time economy, with over 90 areas benefiting from Purple Flag status, including in the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Malta, New Zealand and Australia.

The accreditation is based on a comprehensive framework of standards, good practice and evaluation, designed to

support the development of thriving economies. Five core themes underpin the programme: wellbeing, movement, appeal, place, and policy envelope.

A collaborative approach is essential to success, with local authorities, BIDs, police, businesses, educational institutions and communities all playing a role. Benefits include enhanced reputation and public image, broader visitor appeal and higher local spend, reduced crime and anti-social behaviour, and stronger long-term economic sustainability through a balanced mix of uses.

Towns and cities with Purple Flag status use the accreditation to promote their areas, including their vibrancy, inclusivity and safety.

Purple Flag: <https://www.atcm.org/purple-flag>

Principle 3: We will develop a vision and strategy for our night time economy in partnership with all stakeholders.

In recent years, more towns and cities have recognised the benefit of visions and strategies which set out the north star of thriving, safe, welcoming and inclusive night time economies. These strategies, in turn, help to galvanise a sense of partnership in fostering the night time economy, as well as informing the development of statutory policies including planning and licensing, to ensure an integrated approach.

Strategies may be published by local authorities, such as Westminster, Wandsworth and Camden. They might also be published by Metro Mayors, such as the London Mayor. But they can also be produced by BIDs and business alliances, such as the Heart of London Business Alliances, Evening and Night-time Vision, Strategy and Action Plan.

[Business Improvement Districts](#)

[Camden Evening & Night-Time Strategy 2024 – 2029](#)

[Heart of London Business Alliance](#)

[Night Time, Our Time, A Night Time Strategy for Wandsworth](#)

[Night Vision: Wolverhampton City Centre Evening and Night Strategy 2025-2030](#)

[Westminster After Dark](#)



Heart of London Business Alliance (HOLBA)

HOLBA is a Business Improvement District representing more than 500 businesses at the heart of London's West End. The West End's evening and night-time economy is world-renowned, drawing millions of visitors each year and contributing over £14 billion to the UK economy. Yet it faces challenges: stagnating growth, rising operating costs, overcrowded streets, limited step-free access, increasing

antisocial behaviour, fragmented public policies (licensing and planning), and a shortage of essential facilities.

To address these issues, HOLBA launched the first-ever [Evening and Night-Time Economy \(ENTE\) Strategy for London's West End in 2023](#). The strategy sets out a vision to make the area more inclusive, safe, accessible, vibrant, and attractive for everyone who lives, works, visits, invests, and does business here. An Expert Advisory Board oversees its delivery, built on strong partnerships between businesses, the local authority, statutory bodies, and key stakeholders.

Key achievements since publication include: working with Transport for London to introduce a new pedicab licensing scheme (launching 2026); shaping Westminster City Council's first ENTE strategy, Westminster After Dark Purple Flag accreditation for Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus — the longest-serving Purple Flag area globally - and securing Mayoral funding for 80 new police officers dedicated to the West End.

Looking ahead, HOLBA wants to see the West End designated as a district of national and international significance in the new London Plan and to secure bespoke governance, policies and investment tailored to the unique needs of the West End.

[Heart of London Business Alliance](#)

[HOLBA Evening and Night Time Strategy](#)

[Westminster After Dark](#)

A successful local night-time economy strategy should focus on creating a safe, inclusive, and vibrant environment for residents, visitors, and workers. It should also aim to support local businesses, particularly those in the leisure and hospitality sectors, and boost the local economy.

Potential vision and strategy elements include:

Vision:

- **A vibrant and safe town/city centre:** a place where people feel safe and welcome to explore and enjoy the evening and night-time.
- **A diverse and inclusive scene:** the night-time economy should cater to a variety of interests and demographics, ensuring that everyone feels welcome and can participate.
- **A thriving hub for local businesses:** the strategy should support the growth and sustainability of businesses, especially those in the leisure and hospitality sectors, by creating an environment where they can thrive.
- **A destination for both residents and visitors:** the night-time economy should attract both local residents and visitors, contributing to the overall economic and social vibrancy of the area.

Strategy:

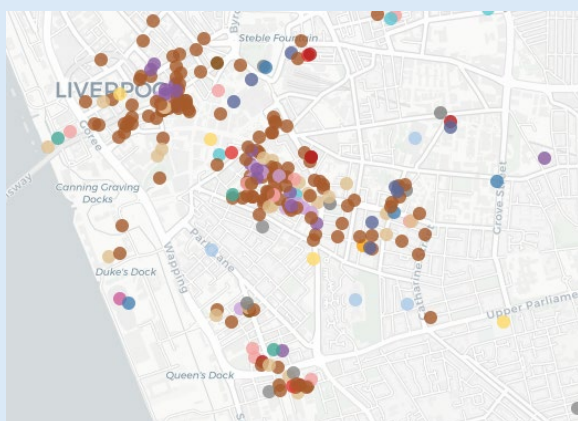
- **Safety and Security:** considerations could include enhanced security measures such as lighting, patrols and communication channels, promoting responsible drinking and personal accountability / social responsibility, and consideration of best practice initiatives to highlight partnerships and safety initiatives such as safe spaces and havens.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** support for a wide range of entertainment venues, from traditional pubs and bars to live music venues, cultural events, and independent businesses. Promote inclusivity and accessibility for all, including those with disabilities, young people and families. Encourage collaborations between different sectors, such as tourism, arts and culture and local businesses, to create a more vibrant and diverse night-time experience.
- **Support for Local Businesses:** licensing policies can support the night-time economy and promote responsible business practices. Local businesses can also be supported through social marketing campaigns and online platforms.
- **Enhanced Access and Connectivity:** reviewing public transport, designated drop off zones, ride sharing services, night buses, promoting walkability etc.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Strong partnership working to develop and implement the strategy. Promoting the area as a vibrant and attractive destination and working with other areas to share best practice.

Principle 4: We will support the night time economy as a whole through social marketing and promotion.

Locally and nationally, supporting the night time economy through social marketing and promotion, should focus on highlighting the benefits of a vibrant and safe night life, and promoting diverse activities. Locally, this can be achieved through a combination of targeted campaigns, community events, and online presence.

Coordination of promotional activities is ideally done through BIDs and similar initiatives where available, or local tourist information, local media etc., all of which can:

- **Highlight the economic benefits:** Emphasising the positive impact of the night time economy on local businesses, employment, and tourism.
- **Promote safety and security:** address any concerns of residents about safety and security in the night time economy. Highlight initiatives such as night safety charters.
- **Showcase the diversity of offerings:** Promote a wide range of activities beyond just bars and clubs, including live music, theatre, restaurants, cultural events, competitive socialising and more.
- **Engage local communities:** Work with local businesses, community groups, and residents to ensure that the night time economy is inclusive and caters to the needs of the community.
- **Utilise social media and online platforms:** Create engaging content that promotes the night time economy, using platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and local event listings.
- **Develop a strong brand identity:** Create a consistent brand message and visual identity that communicates the value and appeal of the night time economy.
- **Use data and analytics:** Track the effectiveness of marketing campaigns and adjust strategies accordingly to maximize their impact.
- **Promote local events and festivals:** Support local events and festivals that showcase the unique culture and vibrancy of the area.



Liverpool City Region Music Board

The Liverpool City Region Music Board was set up in 2018 as an independent, sector-led board appointed by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Metro Mayor and supported by the Liverpool Mayor. It is charged with cementing the city region's position as one of the world's music capitals and will work to ensure music businesses and communities have a stronger voice in local and regional decision-making. Its five priorities are:

- to ensure the long development and growth of the Liverpool City Region music industry
- support the growth and development of a sustainable music tourism offer across the city region, facilitate music and education sectors to come together with a plan to increase engagement in music and investment in and development of talent from all communities across the city region
- ensure a sustainable and strong network of venues and to work with local authorities across the city region to introduce and implement the Agent of Change principle
- equality and diversity

Among its initiatives has been the creation of a map and directory of music venues and other businesses, which now lists over 1600 active organisations contributing to the region's music sector.

[*Liverpool City Region Music Board – Strategy and Action Plan, 2018*](#)

Principle 5: We will encourage the establishment of small businesses through mentoring, resources and support.

To encourage small business establishment, a multi-pronged approach is needed. Mentoring provides invaluable guidance and support for new entrepreneurs, while resource and support networks help them navigate the complexities of starting and growing a business.

Principle 6: We support common training and information-sharing for businesses, workers, regulatory authorities and communities, including in the Charter Principles.

By promoting common training and information sharing, businesses, workers, regulatory authorities, and communities can work together to create safer, more effective, and more collaborative environments.



Greater London Authority, Business Friendly Licensing

In 2022, as part of the London Recovery Programme, the Greater London Authority commissioned research into business-friendly licensing and regulation practices.

The research identified seven key ways that council licensing and regulation services, in partnership with their economic development teams, can support businesses, including innovative use of public spaces, help for

businesses applying for licences, use of accreditation and best practice schemes, increasing awareness among regulators of business challenges, helping businesses to grow and improve, reducing the time and cost burdens on businesses and business friendly policies.

Following the research, the GLA provided grant funding to five boroughs to trial innovative business friendly initiatives that could be adopted or expanded by other London boroughs, including public realm activations, and developing free and clear online guidance for licence applicants.

[Greater London Authority: Business Friendly Licensing](#)

An inclusive night time economy

Principle 7: We will develop a night time economy which meets the needs of all users, regardless of their age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socio-economic status or interests.

A truly inclusive night-time economy aims to offer opportunities and experiences that cater to a diverse range of users, regardless of their age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socio-economic status or interests.

This involves creating welcoming, safe, accessible, and attractive environments, as well as ensuring affordability and a variety of activities, beyond traditional bars and nightclubs, including cultural events, live music, art galleries, and more.

Supporting and delivering events and programs specifically designed to appeal to different ethnic groups, age groups and interests helps to create spaces and opportunities for people from different backgrounds to interact and build relationships.



A strategy for the management of Cheltenham's evening and night time economy

Cheltenham Borough Council developed an integrated night-time economy strategy in 2019 that aims to cultivate a lively, accessible, and safe evening environment while respecting residents' quality of life.

Partnerships are central, engaging police, businesses, the BID, the university, disability groups, street pastors, LGBT+ representatives, accessibility forums and others to continuously evaluate and

update the strategy. The overarching vision remains “a safe and attractive town centre with a diverse night time economy, accessible to all while protecting the quality of life for residents.”

We want our evening and night time economy to work for everyone – businesses, residents, visitors and higher education students. An accessible and inclusive Cheltenham that is well managed contributes towards a safe and sustainable town.

2024's statistics are encouraging which show that Cheltenham's evening and night-time economy continues to thrive and grow through a diverse offer and without a reliance on alcohol-based venues. There has also been a 12% reduction overall in crime and disorder incidents.

The strategy is currently being reviewed ahead of the Purple Flag Interim Assessment in early 2026. We are proud to have achieved this award for the 10th year running.

A Strategy for managing Cheltenham's evening and night time economy: Cheltenham Borough Council 2

Principle 8: We will provide a night time economy which is accessible to people with disabilities both in venues and in public spaces.

An inclusive night-time economy ensures venues and public spaces are accessible to people with disabilities, promoting equal opportunities for enjoyment and participation. This includes addressing physical accessibility in buildings and streets, providing information, and fostering an environment where everyone feels safe and welcome.

LISTEN FOR LIFE

PROJECT

Protecting Hearing Preserving Futures

Listen for Life

Listen For Life was developed to safeguard the health and wellbeing of those immersed in music. Supported by the World Health Organisation's World Hearing Forum and led by industry and clinical experts, it addresses a crucial yet often overlooked issue: hearing health. Hearing is one of our most precious senses and

fundamental to enjoying music, yet those working in or attending music-rich environments are at significantly higher risk of hearing loss and tinnitus. Beyond hearing, prolonged exposure to loud sound also increases the risk of serious health conditions such as dementia, heart disease, high blood pressure, and stroke.

The campaign provides a comprehensive suite of resources for staff, patrons, and music venues. Through the HELA education portal, a pioneering safe listening certification, businesses and individuals learn responsible sound management. Partnerships with high street audiologists make hearing checks accessible, while high-fidelity, reusable hearing protection ensures safe enjoyment of music.

Listen For Life champions awareness, protection, testing, and access, aiming to double education, hearing protection use, and testing rates within a decade. By promoting hearing health as an essential part of music culture, the campaign ensures that everyone can continue to enjoy music safely, fostering a lasting positive behavioural change.

Listen for Life: www.listenforlife.co.uk

Principle 9: We will make the licensing process inclusive by making it as simple as possible, affordable for small businesses, and ensuring documents and policies are short and written in plain English.

For small business owners, the experience of obtaining licences can be daunting or confusing. The complexity and time-consuming nature of licensing processes can be a significant barrier for new and growing businesses. Simplifying this process and offering support wherever possible, can drastically improve applicants' experience and remove unnecessary barriers to growth.



A safe night time economy

Principle 10: We are committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to protect our workers, visitors and neighbours.

Working in partnership with all stakeholders to protect workers, visitors and local residents involves a collaborative effort to ensure a safe and secure environment. This includes establishing clear communication channels, implementing safety protocols and fostering a culture of responsibility across all involved parties.



Safer Business Network

Safer Business Network works in partnership with the Mayor of London, local authorities, the police, businesses and organisations across the capital to improve safety and wellbeing in the night-time economy. We deliver and champion the [Women's Night Safety Charter](#), which commits organisations to seven pledges to make London a safer, more inclusive city for women at night. More than 3,000 organisations, across most industry sectors have now signed up, embedding measures that prioritise safety, staff awareness, and inclusive design.

We also lead on Safe Havens, a citywide network of businesses and organisations that provide temporary refuge for anyone who feels unwell, unsafe, or vulnerable. This practical initiative builds community trust and strengthens resilience in local areas.

Alongside this, our WAVE (Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement) Training equips frontline staff in licensed venues and public spaces with the tools to identify and support vulnerable people, de-escalate situations and promote safer nights out. To date, tens of thousands of staff have been trained, delivering measurable improvements in welfare outcomes and public confidence.

Together, these programmes directly support the Charter's principles of a safe, inclusive, and thriving night-time economy through collaborative partnership and evidence-led best practice.

[Safer Business Network - Women's Night Safety Charter](#)

[Safer Business Network](#)

Principle 11: We will share our resources to improve collective knowledge of licensing and other legal requirements.

Sharing information and resources will ensure that all parties understand the legal requirements they are working with. Partners can support each other to ensure compliance and a clear understanding of legal obligations as well as good practice. WhatsApp groups of businesses are a simple way to support each other with day to day regulatory and business issues.

Principle 12: We support safe spaces and welfare and safeguarding initiatives in the public realm.

Safe spaces, welfare, and safeguarding initiatives focus on creating environments where individuals, particularly vulnerable ones, feel secure, supported, and protected from harm. This involves addressing physical safety, emotional and psychological well-being, and ensuring everyone is treated with respect and dignity.



Leeds: Women Night Safe Space

Women's Night Safe Space is a safe bus for women and girls to come to or be referred to in the city centre at night if they feel concerned, unsafe, unwell or vulnerable. We are here for women to seek refuge, support and advice.

We are there to make sure Leeds city centre is a safe, comfortable and fun space for all women.

Support may include:

- Mobile phone charging facilities
- Water, refreshments and warm drinks
- Support calling a taxi
- Somewhere to talk through concerns and be signposted for further support
- Somewhere to report incidents to the police and wait for further assistance
- Somewhere to wait for friends so they are not alone
- A non-judgemental warm place with a friendly face

All women are welcome for whatever reason

[Leeds: Women Night Safe Space](#)

Principle 13: We will work to increase public awareness of accepted standards of conduct both in venues and in public spaces.

Public awareness of accepted standards of conduct in both venues and public spaces is crucial for maintaining a respectful and safe environment for everyone.

We will work together to increase self-awareness of customers in venues and those in public spaces, encouraging everyone to take responsibility for their own actions and behaviour while being in those spaces. This includes adhering to rules, respecting others, and being aware of the potential impact of their conduct on those around them.

Night time economy venues can help to improve the customer experience for everyone by modelling the behaviour they expect to see, nudging customers away from unwanted behaviour through messaging on social media and in venues, encouraging active by-standing and ensuring that customer complaints are properly acted upon so that misbehaviour is noted and dealt with.



The Good Night Out Campaign

The Good Night Out Campaign publishes a digital resource for bystander training, which could be used by students' unions and other groups and associations with a safeguarding mission. It invites bystanders to build their skills through a number of steps from merely being there to intervening when it is safe to do so.

[Good Night Out Campaign](#)

Principle 14: We will promote responsible alcohol consumption including through education and staff training.

Promoting responsible alcohol consumption involves a multifaceted approach, including education, staff training, and clear messaging. Education helps individuals understand the risks associated with alcohol and make informed choices, while staff training equips those who serve alcohol with the skills to prevent overconsumption and ensure patron safety.



Best Bar None

Best Bar None (BBN) is a national accreditation and awards scheme for licensed premises, designed to promote safer socialising through partnership working and high standards. Operating in more than 60 towns and cities and with over 3,000 accredited premises, BBN is supported by the Home Office and

national industry partners.

Accreditation recognises venues that achieve excellence in safety, inclusivity, staff training and customer care. By setting clear standards and celebrating success, BBN provides venues with a framework for continuous improvement and a mark of quality that is visible to customers, partners and regulators alike.

Survey data from 2025 confirm its impact: 91% of schemes report that BBN has improved safety in their area, while 95.6% say it is effective in supporting local initiatives to reduce Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Nearly 83% of respondents highlight stronger partnerships, and 78% report improved communication between local partners and the licensed trade.

BBN schemes benefit from expert setup support to ensure effective implementation. Local areas are encouraged to collaborate and share learning with other towns and cities, spreading best practice and building confidence. Thanks to strong industry backing, this support is provided free of charge, removing financial barriers for local partnerships.

[Best Bar None](#)

[Best Bar None \(Scotland\)](#)

Principle 15: We will develop training and schemes for welfare in venues and public spaces.

Training and schemes for welfare in venues and public spaces often focus on equipping staff and members of the public with the skills and knowledge to identify and respond to vulnerability, particularly in situations involving potential harm or risk. These initiatives can include programs like the Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) course, which aims to increase staff confidence in recognizing and responding to vulnerability, and the "Ask for Angela" scheme, which provides a discreet way for individuals to signal that they need assistance.



Manchester: Women's Night-time Safety Charter

We launched the 'Manchester Women's Night-time Safety Charter' in September 2022, with over 600 businesses now signed up, pledging to put measures in place which ensure staff are trained on how to support and keep women safe. The charter has also empowered staff to spot and take action against predatory behaviour before it puts any women at risk.

Businesses supporting the Charter are offered free training sessions for their

staff to access on 'Welfare, vulnerability and active bystander'. This has now been delivered to more than 2500 people who work in the night time economy, giving them the tools to notice and act upon vulnerability.

The Charter is just one of the initiatives taken to improve safety for women. Others include the launch of the city's first free safety app 'WalkSafe Manchester', the 'Good Night Out Guide' and the police VAWG-focused operation 'Op Safer Streets'.

[Manchester Women's Night-time Safety Charter](#) – Toolkit: Manchester City Council

Principle 16: We will provide initiatives protecting the health, including mental health, of those working in the night time economy.

Initiatives like "Thrive at Night" in Bristol offer mental health and well-being training to the 6 pm to 6 am workforce, collaborating with experts in mental health and night-time economy businesses. Other projects such as the "Women's Night Safety Charters" involve collaboration between various stakeholders to improve safety for all, including staff and customers.

Safe spaces, often staffed by volunteers like Street Angels or paramedics, provide support and shelter to those who need it, addressing issues like excessive alcohol consumption and general safety concerns.



Ask for Angela

Ask for Angela is a nationally recognised safety initiative designed to give anyone who feels vulnerable or unsafe in a public place a discreet way to seek help. By asking for “Angela” at the bar or reception, staff are alerted to provide appropriate support, such as reuniting them with friends or helping them leave safely.

The initiative was first developed in Lincolnshire in 2016 and has since been adopted across the UK, with growing international interest. It addresses a clear need to ensure that both customers and staff feel confident that help is available if required. Public awareness is unusually high for a safeguarding scheme, and venues that adopt Ask for Angela are recognised as proactive, caring and responsible.

[Ask for Angela](#)

Principle 17: We will support action against people who commit crimes in licensed premises.

Criminal activity in licensed premises by customers should be addressed decisively where possible through criminal sanctions. This involves creating a culture in which victims are encouraged to report crime, venues act properly on reporting by preserving crime scenes and summoning the Police, and the Police follow through with appropriate investigation and action. Anti-social or unacceptable behaviour which does not warrant criminal action can still be addressed by licensed premises through decisions to exclude the perpetrators from licensed premises. This is often most effective when administered through a Pubwatch or similar scheme with all licensed premises in the area taking simultaneous decisions.



National Pubwatch

National Pubwatch is a voluntary organisation which was established in 1997, to support the work of local Pubwatch schemes with the aim of creating safer drinking environments in the pub and hospitality

sector.

Pubwatch schemes are local voluntary forums of licensees who work together to reduce crime and anti-social in their venues. The cornerstone of most schemes is the collective exclusion of troublesome individuals. Most Pubwatch schemes will also introduce or support local initiatives that impact on issues that affect the safety of staff and customers.

National Pubwatch supports local Pubwatch schemes and promotes good practice through its conferences, newsletters and social media. It provides free documentation and materials such as posters and a range of free training aids such as workbooks and films. Good practice by Pubwatch schemes and individuals is acknowledged and celebrated through its various awards.

[National Pubwatch](#)



A sustainable night time economy

Principle 18: We support environmental measures and programmes in the night time economy, including recycling, waste-minimisation, energy efficiency and use of local suppliers.

As with all the principles laid out in this charter, the best solutions are the ones which are delivered in partnership. Supporting sustainability in the night-time economy epitomises the multi-agency approach, requiring collaboration between licensing authorities, transport, education, town centre management, businesses and community groups working together.

The night-time economy, encompassing activities between 6 pm and 6 am, presents both opportunities and challenges for environmental sustainability.

Key environmental measures could include:

- Light and noise pollution measures – including eco-friendly lighting.
- Effective and environmental waste management
- Recycling schemes.
- Reducing use of single use plastics.
- Recycling grey water.
- Use of LED lighting.
- Promoting sustainable consumption.
- Using local supply chains.

Principle 19: We support sustainable transport solutions, including public transport and active travel programmes.

Sustainable transportation options, could include consideration of:

- Infrastructure reviews to ensure well-lit and safe walking and cycling routes, and improved public transport options where possible to extend service hours and routes
- Restricting vehicle access during peak hours to improve safety and reduce emissions
- Efficient and reliable night bus and train schemes.

Westminster's After Dark Strategy

Below is an extract from Westminster's After Dark Strategy

Environmental Sustainability Strategic Objectives:

ES1 - Embedding Environmental Sustainability and Biodiversity into this Strategy.

As we deliver this strategy, we will prioritise environmental sustainability by ensuring our actions promote cleaner air, minimise environmental impact, and enhance biodiversity, supporting a greener and more sustainable evening and nighttime economy.

ES2 - Advancing Green Lighting and Sustainable Infrastructure in Westminster's Evening and Night-Time Economy

We will work with businesses and partners to actively reduce the environmental impact of Westminster's evening and night-time economy, by supporting the implementation of energy-efficient lighting where appropriate, promoting green infrastructure (where permitted under the planning system), and encouraging or enforcing eco-friendly operational practices across the evening night-time sector.

ES3 - Advancing Waste Reduction and Circular Economy Initiatives in Westminster's Evening and Night-Time Economy

We will work with businesses and partners to reduce waste generation and promote sustainable practices within Westminster's evening and night-time economy by supporting the Council's waste and recycling programmes, encouraging reuse, and fostering a circular economy approach.

This objective will focus on augmenting the Council's new Waste Strategy to ensure it reflects and extends into the evening and night-time hours.

ES4 - Promoting Sustainable Transport to Improve Air Quality in Westminster's Evening and Night-Time Environment

We will encourage sustainable transport choices among Westminster's evening and night-time visitors, residents, and workers, by encouraging greater use of public transport, cycling, and other low-emission travel options. Within the licensing context, we will seek to expand low-emission options, supporting pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure where appropriate under the planning system, and promoting electrical vehicle use, fostering a cleaner and healthier night-time environment.

[Westminster After Dark Strategy 2025 – 2040: City of Westminster, 2025](#)



Support for programmes

Principle 20: We will support voluntary programmes which contribute to the vibrancy and safety of the night time economy.

Voluntary programs contribute to a safer and more vibrant night-time economy by fostering collaboration between local authorities, businesses, community groups and local experts to promote towns and cities at night while mitigating the risk of harmful impacts, whether to visitors, night workers or residents. Such schemes bring partners together to resolve issues and serve to avoid burdensome and costly regulation.

Some schemes are driven by local authorities, some by Police and many others by national or community organisations.

Many voluntary programmes are included in the [Index of Initiatives](#). There are too many to list here, but individually and collectively they provide inspiring examples of the work and collaboration in the field.



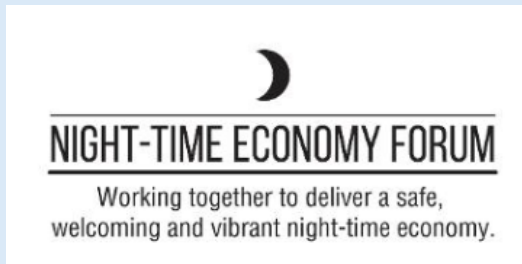
Working with communities

Principle 21: We will establish a night time economy forum for businesses, communities and regulators to discuss issues and develop agreed solutions.

A night-time economy forum brings together stakeholders including businesses, local authorities, event organisers, relevant professionals and community representatives to focus on the economic, social, and cultural aspects of activities taking place after 6 pm, including leisure, hospitality, and entertainment.

Forums often cover a range of issues, such as:

- **Economic Impact:** Discussing the financial contribution of the night-time economy and its growth.
- **Licensing and Regulation:** Addressing licensing procedures and their impact on businesses.
- **Safety and Security:** Focusing on creating safe and secure environments for both businesses and the public.
- **Cultural Development:** Exploring the role of the night-time economy in promoting cultural activities and events.
- **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Discussing how to make the night-time economy accessible to all members of the community.
- **Sustainability:** Addressing the environmental impact of the night-time economy and promoting green initiatives.



St. Helens Town Centre Night-Time Economy Forum – Safe / Inclusive / Thriving

Started in 2022, the St. Helens Night-Time Economy Forum is made up of representatives from venues including pubs, clubs, theatres, cinema, bowling alley, bars and restaurants. Supported by the website Safe Nights, Great Places, it meets quarterly with

presentations from Growth Co, regeneration, communications, policing and town centres, etc. The meetings are also used to problem-solve but an atmosphere of positivity and collaboration is encouraged.

Meetings are minuted with actions, chaired by the Supporting Neighbourhoods portfolio holder.

The Forum generates ideas for how to spend the allocation of funding from the community safety partnership.

The Forum has successfully fostered a sense of partnership between venues themselves and also with St. Helens authorities, to help us work to a common agenda.

[Safe Nights, Great Places](#) | [The Growth Company](#)

Effective communication between ENTE businesses, and local residents is crucial. It allows ideas and concerns to be discussed in open forum, and for parties to develop a mutual understanding and a will to work together to address issues arising together, avoiding conflict and any need for escalation by either party. Communication is key, and solutions are always more effective when they are implemented with support from relevant parties.

Principle 22: We will encourage meetings between businesses and neighbours to discuss plans and concerns

Effective communication between ENTE businesses and local residents is crucial. It allows ideas and concerns to be discussed in open forum, and for parties to develop a mutual understanding and a will to work together to address issues arising together, avoiding conflict and any need for escalation by either party. Solutions are always more effective when they are implemented with support from relevant parties. Records of meetings should be kept and shared so that all parties continue to work together to resolve any concerns and avoid the need for reviews and hearings wherever possible.

Principle 23: We will support schemes for mediation of any issues between venues and neighbours.

Where conflicts do arise due to issues such as noise nuisance, anti-social behaviour, parking or boundary disputes or misunderstandings and breakdowns in communication, mediation through neutral, experienced mediators can help the parties reach a resolution.

Mediation enables people to make a point or ask a question in a safe environment and to discuss their concerns in a forum which is designed to resolve rather than exacerbate conflict.



Licensing Advice Project at Citizens Advice Westminster

The Licensing Advice Project, provided by Westminster Citizens Advice (WCA) and funded by Westminster City Council (WCC), was set up in 2005.

It is the only service of its kind in the country, and provides advice, information and advocacy to residents and businesses in respect of their rights and responsibilities under relevant licensing legislation.

The need for advice on issues related to the Licensing Act 2003 (LA03) was identified by WCC at the inception of LA03. WCC partnered with WCA to provide a service to ensure that its residents and amenity societies could play a full role in the democratic process.

The remit of the Project was subsequently expanded to include Gambling Act 2005 and sexual entertainment venues.

Typically, the work of the Project involves advice on submission of representations, advice throughout the process, including mediation, and representation at licensing hearings.

The Project delivers important benefits to clients, the local authority and the licensing process, helping to ensure that objectors put their views across effectively but proportionately, and focus on relevant issues in written representations and at hearings.

The Project is perhaps most effective when assisting in mediation between parties leading to an agreed settlement or, where this is not possible, advocacy on behalf of residents at licensing hearings.

In 'levelling the playing field' we help to ensure a fairer licensing process, particularly at hearings, which can result in more robust decision-making.

The Project has a dedicated website (see below). We also engage with wider issues in licensing law on behalf of residents, for example responding to consultations and helping residents and residents' groups to engage with consultations at both local and national level.

The Project's work necessitates fostering links with residents' groups, responsible authorities and other important stakeholders, and developing effective working relationships with legal advisors to the hospitality industry.

The Project has been referred to as a 'best practice' example of good engagement facilitated by a local authority.

[*Licensing Advice Project at Citizens Advice Westminster*](#)

Principle 24: We will protect neighbours from unwanted noise through proper promotion of agent of change, building standards and schemes for sound mitigation.

The 'agent of change principle' encapsulates the position that a person or business (i.e. the agent) introducing a new land use is responsible for managing the impact of that change.

The principle was added to the National Planning Policy framework in 2018, and subsequently to the Section 182 Guidance under the Licensing Act 2003 in 2022. The [government's response to the Licensing Policy Sprint](#)* in 2025, reiterates the importance of planning and licensing working collaboratively, and commits to 'carefully consider the taskforce's findings in embedding this principle beyond the planning process and into licensing decisions'.

There is a critical need for collaboration between planning and licensing services, to ensure that new residential (or other) developments do not jeopardise existing music and entertainment venues. Proper communication and mitigation of future issues is far more effective when considered at planning stages rather than later on once problems have arisen.

*[The government's response to the Licensing Policy Sprint](#)



A collaborative approach

Principle 25: We will promote the importance and benefits of dialogue and transparency between venues and statutory authorities.

Dialogue and transparency are crucial for fostering trust, collaboration, and accountability in any setting. They create a more open and honest environment, leading to improved problem-solving, stronger relationships and increased engagement.

Working together enables issues to be addressed with a ‘solutions-based’ approach, and in many cases may avoid any escalation of issues or formal processes to address them.

Principle 26: We encourage statutory authorities to offer guidance, mentorship and informal advice, creating strong relationships and a supportive approach to compliance.

The [Regulators’ Code](#) states that ‘Regulators should ensure clear information, guidance and advice is available to help those they regulate meet their responsibilities to comply’, and that when providing guidance, it should clearly distinguish between legal requirements and good practice advice. The emphasis throughout the code is on enabling compliance and fostering an environment which encourages dialogue, trust and collaboration to achieve results,

Open dialogue and transparency include being clear about expectations, honest about concerns and emerging issues and giving feedback where appropriate. Supporting applicants through advice and guidance enables good quality licence applications, and providing informal, supportive advice allows issues to be addressed at the outset.

The Regulators’ Code:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f4e14e2e90e071c745ff2df/14-705-regulators-code.pdf>

Principle 27: We will champion a positive culture of incident reporting by developing agreed practices that can be adapted to meet local requirements.

Licence holders and premises managers should be encouraged to report incidents and not deterred through fear that this will add to ‘negative data’ in connection with the premises.

Police will rarely wish every incident to be reported, however minor, but practices vary from area to area. It is helpful to agree a protocol of the kind of incidents which should be reported by venues to avoid misunderstanding.

Principle 28: We will explore ways to improve how data is gathered, categorised and shared locally, ensuring it is used consistently and fairly to inform decision-making.

Data is important and should be collected and reported clearly and consistently. Locally, transparency between venues and statutory authorities about what data is collected, how it is recorded and how and when it will be used in connection with licensing decisions is essential. Bad practices in data reporting and the use of poor-quality data undermines trust and ultimately damages professional relationships as well as leading to poor decisions.

Statutory authorities have a responsibility to ensure that data is used appropriately and will be keenly aware of the need to fully understand the data and its relevance to the application under consideration before using it.

Principle 29: We will develop a collaborative approach for venue inspections, that can be adapted to local requirements, to minimise the time and cost burden on statutory authorities and venues and ensure consistent recording.

Statutory authorities all have a part to play in monitoring compliance and regulating activities. Working together, an agreed collaborative approach should enable joint inspections and sharing of inspection findings to avoid the need for multiple visits and reducing disruption to venues, saving resources to all parties. Agreed practices on recording inspections enables comparable and consistent data collection.

Inspection results should be shared with venues to enable a clear understanding of venue performance, including areas of good practice and any areas where improvements could or should be considered.

Principle 30: We will develop best practice processes for action planning, including maintaining and sharing records of meetings between venues and authorities.

Action planning is a helpful way for concerns to be shared between venues and responsible authorities, and for solutions to be jointly proposed and adopted.

Action plans should be signed by all parties, with a further meeting planned in to gauge success.

The process of action planning is helpful to avoid enforcement action, since it sets clear expectations on both sides to maintain partnership working.

Principle 31: We support the principle of a stepped approach to solving problems together, and recognise that in the most serious situations, or where the stepped approach has not been effective, immediate enforcement action may need to be taken.

Open dialogue and a collaborative, solutions-based approach is always the preferred option, but where collaboration fails to deliver improvements, or where dialogue fails, statutory authorities will consider necessary and proportionate escalation through licensing or other processes.

In the case of serious incidents or serious concerns, immediate action may be taken, although authorities recognise that even in serious situations, action must be necessary and proportionate, and further information may be needed to properly assess the situation in order to establish the long-term solution.

Even where enforcement action has become necessary, authorities and venues should maintain an open dialogue to try and resolve outstanding concerns and reach agreement as to the way forward.

Principle 32: We support a regulatory framework that is enabling rather than restrictive. Any burdens and restrictions should be proportionate and introduced only when genuinely necessary, with careful consideration of lighter-touch alternatives.

The [Licensing taskforce report: government response](#) committed to ‘reducing the costs of doing business in the UK by restoring the founding ethos of flexibility and growth, while maintaining a firm focus on the licensing objectives, particularly the prevention of crime and disorder’. The report recognises the original intention of the Licensing Act 2003 – to enable vibrant, culturally rich and economically dynamic communities.

Working together in collaborative partnerships, with open and transparent communications, advice and guidance, will enable strong relationships based on mutual understanding and professional trust. It will enable partners to agree solutions and mitigations with a light regulatory touch wherever possible. This approach is a return to the basic principles of the Licensing Act 2003, but it is also a more effective and efficient way to ensure that the evening and night time economy is allowed to innovate, adapt and grow.

The overall aim should always be to achieve vibrant, safe and welcoming communities where individuals can live, work, and socialise safely, and without adversely impacting others.

[The Licensing taskforce report: government response](#)



Measuring and celebrating success

Principle 33: We will develop methods to measure the success of this Charter at local level.

Reflecting the global recognition of the importance of the night time economy, there are increasing examples of the formal collection and analysis of data measuring the success of the night time economy in terms of its contribution to the economy, workforce and reputation of an area, as well as data concerning externalities. See for example: [London at Night: an Updated Evidence Base for a 24 hour City](#). Useful data can often be collected systematically from open source data such as licensing records and national data regarding the number of businesses and workers in particular areas and sectors. Data can also be obtained from transport providers regarding footfall, and card suppliers regarding spend. It is recommended that all towns and cities begin the benchmarking journey which will help them formulate policies and visions for the future.

[London at Night: an Updated Evidence Base for a 24 hour City](#)

Principle 34: We will recognise and build on our success in meeting our shared objectives.

Partners should always celebrate their early wins, their milestones and achievement of their objectives. They will also keep their vision and strategy under review and plan to build on their success by setting the bar even higher for each new strategic period.

A photograph of two women sitting at a table in a restaurant or cafe at night. The woman on the left is wearing a yellow shirt and glasses, looking towards the right. The woman on the right is wearing a white sleeveless top and a patterned scarf, looking towards the right. There are glasses of wine and a plate of food on the table. The background is dark with many out-of-focus lights, creating a bokeh effect.

Index of Initiatives



Alcohol Change UK

Alcohol Change UK focuses on ending the harms caused by alcohol, collaborating with those who share our vision of ending alcohol harm and work to create a network of those committed to ending alcohol harm including: researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, corporate supporters, charity sector colleagues, people with first-hand experience and the general public.

Two of our campaigns highlight how a great night out can be enjoyed with less, or even no, alcohol.

Our [ongoing campaign #StopSoberShaming](#) shines a light on the many ways we might make others feel uncomfortable for not drinking alcohol – from subtle assumptions to pushing alcohol on friends when they have said no. This might be the decision not to drink alcohol for day, a month or indefinitely. By first highlighting unhelpful and upsetting behaviours and then giving people practical tips to play their part in stopping Sober Shaming, our work aims to support relationships where alcohol isn't always the centre of attention. After all, with so many venues now offering excellent no and low-alcoholic alternatives, there are even more reasons to enjoy what really matters – time with those we love.

Launched in 2018, the [Try Dry® app](#) is a free tool from Alcohol Change UK to help individuals explore and reset their relationship with alcohol by tracking units, calories, and money saved, and monitoring your wellbeing, sleep, and mood. Rooted in behaviour change science, the app enables people to set personalised goals, from participating in the Dry January® challenge to cutting down on drinking alcohol year-round and is available on Android and Apple devices.

In-app 'Missions' are designed to encourage trying out activities or situations without alcohol – from dates to nights out to attending sports events - helping users explore how socialising, hobbies and leisure doesn't have to centre around alcohol to still be enjoyed.

More than 1 million people have downloaded the app, with strong evidence that it works! Research by the University of Sussex shows that users are twice as likely to complete a dry month whilst using the app and 70% reduce their drinking long-term, significantly improving health and wellbeing.

Alcohol Change: <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/>

[Alcohol Change - 'Let's Stop Sober Shaming':](#)

[Alcohol Change - Try Dry® app](#)



Ask for Angela

Ask for Angela is a nationally recognised safety initiative designed to give anyone who feels vulnerable or unsafe in a public place a discreet way to seek help. By asking for "Angela" at the bar or reception, staff are alerted to provide appropriate support, such as reuniting them with friends or helping them leave safely.

The initiative was first developed in Lincolnshire in 2016 and has since been adopted across the UK, with growing international interest. It addresses a clear need to ensure that both customers and staff feel confident that help is available if required. Public awareness is unusually high for a safeguarding scheme, and venues that adopt Ask for Angela are recognised as proactive, caring and responsible.

Training is central to the programme. Staff should be equipped with the knowledge and confidence to respond appropriately to a range of situations, ensuring consistent and safe interventions. The scheme is supported by signage and communication materials that increase visibility and reassure customers.

To help venues set up successfully, Ask for Angela CIC was established and provides a range of options to support successful scheme setup. These include training materials, guidance and implementation support, many of which are free of charge.

[Ask for Angela](#)

attitude is everything

Attitude is Everything

Attitude is Everything supports festivals, venues and events of all sizes across the UK to become more accessible for Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people.

We work with festivals, venues and events of all kinds. We also work with labels, publishers and umbrella orgs around access for artists and professionals.

Attitude is Everything delivers projects connecting disabled people with the music and live events industry to ensure Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people can participate within music and events as audiences, artists, professionals and volunteers. Over 200 organisations have signed up to our Live Events Access Charter. Over 600 artists and professionals are part of our disabled artist and professional networks and we have over 150 mystery shoppers each year. Now in our 25th year, our goal is to ensure disabled people can be as independent as they want to be when participating at all levels of the events economy.

For more information, visit: www.attitudeiseverything.org.uk



Best Bar None

Best Bar None (BBN) is a national accreditation and awards scheme for licensed premises, designed to promote safer socialising through partnership working and high standards. Operating in more than 60 towns and cities and with over 3,000 accredited premises, BBN is supported by the Home Office and national industry partners.

Accreditation recognises venues that achieve excellence in safety, inclusivity, staff training and customer care. By setting clear standards and celebrating success, BBN provides venues with a framework for continuous improvement and a mark of quality that is visible to customers, partners and regulators alike.

Survey data from 2025 confirm its impact: 91% of schemes report that BBN has improved safety in their area, while 95.6% say it is effective in supporting local initiatives to reduce Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Nearly 83% of respondents highlight stronger partnerships, and 78% report improved communication between local partners and the licensed trade.

BBN schemes benefit from expert setup support to ensure effective implementation. Local areas are encouraged to collaborate and share learning with other towns and cities, spreading best practice and building confidence. Thanks to strong industry backing, this support is provided free of charge, removing financial barriers for local partnerships.

For more information, visit: <http://www.bbnuuk.com/>



Best Bar None Scotland

Best Bar None Scotland is a national accreditation and award scheme for licensed premises.

Participants are given lots of support and advice to improve the safety of their staff, premises and customers and to adopt high management standards.

The scheme is backed by the drinks industry in Scotland, as well as Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Licensed Trade Association – and co-ordinated nationally by Retailers Against Crime (RAC). It's also supported by councils, business improvement districts (BIDs) and the Scottish Government.

For more information, visit: <https://www.bbnsotland.co.uk/>



Bristol Nights

Bristol Nights is a partnership project from Bristol City Council, whose purpose is to support the city at night, and everyone who works from 6 pm to 6 am.

It includes:

- A women's night safety charter.
- Thrive at Night, which provides mental health and wellbeing support to the NTE workforce in Bristol, through resources, training, peer support and trauma response support sessions.
- Stop Spiking, which is a city-wide partnership against drink spiking.
- A Harm Reduction Campaign.
- Bristol Rules, which provides a toolkit to protect yourself and your friends from harm.

For more information, visit <https://www.bristolnights.co.uk/>



Business Improvement Districts

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a business-led and business-funded body formed to improve a defined commercial area. The benefits of BIDs are wide-ranging and can include:

- Businesses decide and direct what they want in their area
- Businesses are represented and have a voice in issues affecting their

trading area

- BID levy money is ring-fenced for use only in the BID area
- Increased footfall and spend
- Improved staff retention
- Reduced business costs
- Enhanced marketing and promotion
- Support with sustainability initiatives
- Guidance in place shaping vision activities
- Facilitated networking opportunities with neighbouring businesses
- Assistance in dealing with the Council, Police and other public bodies

For more information, visit: <https://britishbids.info/>



Camden

Camden Council

Camden Council is committed to creating a night-time economy that is safe, inclusive, and resilient. Through our [Evening and Night-Time Economy \(ENTE\) Strategy](#), we provide free accredited training for licensed venues via the Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) and Ask for Angela schemes, delivered in partnership with the Safer Business Network.

The programme equips staff to recognise and respond to vulnerability, raise awareness of drink spiking, support Safe Havens, and encourage proactive reporting of harassment and antisocial behaviour. Venues receive a Certificate of Participation, demonstrating their commitment to safety and alignment with Camden's Statement of Licensing Policy and the Women's Night Safety Charter.

Complementary initiatives include a borough-wide spiking awareness campaign, the Camden Safety Bus (operating Friday and Saturday nights), flexible online and in-person training, and a target to deliver WAVE training to 60% of licensed premises by 2028.

Since its launch in March 2024, when 80 participants received training, the programme has grown significantly. Early outcomes demonstrate successful staff interventions, increased public confidence, the establishment of additional Safe Havens, and strengthened partnership working across the sector.

Women's safety and inclusion are at the heart of Camden's approach: essential to a thriving, respectful, and sustainable night-time economy.

Camden Evening & Night-Time Strategy 2024-2029: Camden Council 2024,
<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/d/guest/4482-6-camden-evening-night-time-strategy-v5-final>



CHEL TENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cheltenham Borough Council developed [an integrated night-time economy strategy](#) in 2019 that aims to cultivate a lively, accessible, and safe evening environment while respecting residents' quality of life.

Partnerships are central, engaging police, businesses, the BID, the university, disability groups, and others to continuously evaluate and update the strategy. The overarching vision remains: "a safe and attractive town centre with a diverse night time economy, accessible to all while protecting the quality of life for residents."

We want Cheltenham's ENTE to work for everyone – businesses, residents, visitors and higher education students. An accessible and inclusive Cheltenham that is well managed contributes towards a safe and sustainable town.

2024's statistics are encouraging which show that Cheltenham's evening and night-time economy continues to thrive and grow through a diverse offer and without a reliance on alcohol-based venues. There has also been an overall a 12% reduction in crime and disorder incidents.

The strategy is currently being reviewed ahead of the purple flag interim assessment in early 2026. We are proud to have achieved this award for the 10th year running.

A Strategy for managing Cheltenham's evening and night time economy: Cheltenham Borough Council 2019, https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8311/ente_strategy.pdf



City of London Corporation

The City Corporation's approach to the Nighttime Economy (NTE) is deeply rooted in collaborative innovation. Through co-location and partnership initiatives, we've built a framework that promotes a safe, inclusive and welcoming NTE.

Our Safety Thirst Accreditation scheme promotes good practice, responsible management and continuous improvement at licensed venues, evaluated against robust criteria. A respected partnership between the City Corporation, Police, and the licensed trade, it recognises and celebrates excellence in the NTE.

Operation Reframe is a partnership initiative led by City Police and supported by the City Corporation, SIA, St Johns ambulance and others. Aimed at enhancing the NTE, ensuring a safe and secure environment, it involves:

- High visibility presence to make people feel safe, deter criminal activity and anti-social behaviour
- Engagement with licensed premises to promote initiatives like ASK FOR ANGELA and anti-drink spiking;
- A Safe Zone where vulnerable individuals are attended to, helping them get home safely.

Our Traffic Light Scheme, Licensing Forums and trade roundtables foster open dialogue between premises, residents and authorities, enabling early intervention and shared responsibility. The Safe Haven and Community Toilet Scheme exemplify our commitment to accessibility and dignity for all night-time users.

These efforts are underpinned by data-led insights and a shared vision for a night-time economy that works for everyone.



Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAPs)

CAP exists to reduce alcohol harm in local communities from drinking by young people under 25, with a particular emphasis on preventing underage drinking.

CAP was piloted by the Retail of Alcohol Standards Group (RASG) in 2007. The model and evaluation framework has since been extensively tested with the result that CAP is now considered one of the most effective ways of tackling localised underage drinking with over 300 partnerships across the UK.

Since our foundation, our mission is achieved via a partnership approach embracing:

- **Education** (for school aged children and those up to the age of 25),
- **Engagement** (of the local community),
- **Entertainment** (appropriate positive activity for young people aged under 18),
- **Enforcement** (linked to Challenge 25 policy and preventing proxy purchase) and
- **Evaluation** (of CAP projects). All partnerships are planned for lasting and sustainable change.

For more information, visit: <https://www.communityalcoholpartnerships.co.uk/>



Devon and Cornwall Night Bus

The 2025 Night Bus scheme comprises of running night buses from midnight to 0500hrs, every Saturday from May 31st 2025, plus Factory Friday and New Year's Eve over 11 routes in Devon and Cornwall. These are provided by Stagecoach and First Bus and aim to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder, the temptation to drink drive and to prevent violence against women and girls.

A ticket costs a maximum of £3 and builds on previous routes in Newquay, Torquay and North Devon where over 3000 passengers used the Night Bus as a safe means to get home after a night out. Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour fell in these areas during the times the buses were in operation.

Funding for the North Devon buses have halved since the project began in in 2023 and Stagecoach have indicated that continued success in 2025 could make the service commercially viable and guarantee its future. In the first 13 weeks of the scheme in 2025, over 7000 passengers have used the buses.

The services are funded by various partners of Devon and Cornwall Police, including the OPCC, local County and District councils as well as Newquay BID, Plymouth Waterfront Partnership and Cornwall Air Ambulance.

For more information, visit: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/police-forces/devon-cornwall-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/night-buses/>



Good Night Out Campaign

The Good Night Out Campaign is an international initiative that helps nightlife venues, clubs, festivals, and cultural organisations to better prevent and respond to gender-based violence through an accreditation programme combining wraparound training and policy support. Our work is both preventative and educational, aiming to create safer, more inclusive environments where everyone can enjoy themselves and staff have practical tools to respond to incidents. The programme was launched in 2014 by feminist educators working in both the UK VAWG sector and live music, who recognised the widespread issue of harassment in nightlife and the absence

of consistent policies to address it. Since 2019, we have delivered audits and training to 5,250 people from 266 organisations, with 198 achieving accreditation.

Accreditation requires contractual commitment to safety standards beyond licensing, adoption of a bespoke best-practice policy, staff training, visible branded materials, and quarterly progress review, making our logo an internationally trusted safety marque. The need was clear: too many, especially women and LGBTQ+ communities, faced harassment without support, within a culture of blame and disbelief. Since drafting the first UK nightclub sexual harassment policy for fabric in 2014, we have become the specialist training provider of choice for 15 UK local authorities. In 2018, Mayor Sadiq Khan commissioned us to author the toolkit for London's Women's Night Safety Charter, and we now sit on the Mayor's Nightlife Taskforce. Our programmes have been positively evaluated twice by the WHO Collaborative Centre, with delivery partners in Australia, India, Singapore, Canada, and Germany.

Good Night Out partners with a range of stakeholders including bars, clubs, festivals, universities, local authorities, and advocacy organisations. We support more than 200 client organisations with training and bespoke policies including artists like Fred Again and global brands like Heineken, Jägermeister, Malibu and Spotify. We advise Transport for London on training needs, while New South Wales Government, Australia, recently commissioned us to write their safeguarding, spiking, and safety policies and a mandatory training manual to be used by every worker in a licensed premises across the state, acknowledging our UK-grown approach as global best practice.

For more information, visit: <https://www.goodnightoutcampaign.org/>



Heart of London Business Alliance

Heart of London Business Alliance (HOLBA) is a Business Improvement District representing more than 500 businesses at the heart of London's West End. The West End's evening and night-time economy is world-renowned, drawing millions of visitors each year and contributing over £14 billion to the UK economy. Yet it faces challenges: stagnating growth, rising operating

costs, overcrowded streets, limited step-free access, increasing antisocial behaviour, fragmented public policies (licensing and planning), and a shortage of essential facilities.

To address these issues, HOLBA launched the first-ever [Evening and Night-Time Economy \(ENTE\) Strategy for London's West End](#) in 2023. The strategy sets out a vision to make the area more inclusive, safe, accessible, vibrant, and attractive for everyone who lives, works, visits, invests, and does business here. An Expert Advisory Board oversees its delivery, built on strong partnerships between businesses, the local authority, statutory bodies, and key stakeholders.

Key achievements since publication include:

- working with Transport for London to introduce a new pedicab licensing scheme (launching 2026);
- shaping Westminster City Council's first ENTE strategy, Westminster After Dark;
- Purple Flag accreditation for Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus — the longest-serving Purple Flag area globally
- securing Mayoral funding for 80 new police officers dedicated to the West End.

Looking ahead, HOLBA wants to see the West End designated as a district of national and international significance in the new London Plan and to secure bespoke governance, policies and investment tailored to the unique needs of the West End.

HOLBA Evening and Night Time Strategy: <https://holba.london/what-we-do/shape/strategies/evening-and-night-time-economy>



Licensing Connect

Licensing Connect is a simple to use system developed by leading licensing law professionals and training providers.

The licensee will be able to maintain all their important licensing records digitally and paperless, including Staff Training, Refusal Register, Visitor Book, Accident and Incident Books.

For more information, visit: <https://www.licensingconnect.co.uk/>



Licensing Savi

Licensing Savi is a police-backed security initiative for licensed premises to provide safer and more secure environments.

It is a self-assessment tool designed to help licensed premises provide a safer and more secure environment for their managers, staff, customers and local communities.

Licensing SAVI ensures licensed premises are aware of and meet the standards required by responsible authorities in England and Wales. It was developed at the request of the Home Office and is backed by the National Police Chiefs' Council.

Licensing SAVI provides advice and guidance for venues to help raise standards and provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment.

Venues which register benefit from our information hub which includes our interactive venue map, safety advice, resources and support.

Venues take part by completing the Licensing SAVI self-assessment, which covers safety and security issues the premises may face.

For more information, visit: <https://www.licensingsavi.com/>



Listen for Life

Listen For Life was developed after decades of research to safeguard the health and wellbeing of those immersed in music. Supported by the World Health Organisation's World Hearing Forum and led by industry and clinical experts, it addresses a crucial yet often overlooked issue: hearing health. Hearing is one of our most precious senses and fundamental to enjoying music, yet those working in or attending music-rich environments are at significantly higher risk of hearing loss and tinnitus. Beyond hearing, prolonged exposure to loud sound also increases the risk of serious health

conditions such as dementia, heart disease, high blood pressure, and stroke.

The campaign provides a comprehensive suite of resources for staff, patrons, and music venues.

Through the HELA education portal, a pioneering safe listening certification, businesses and individuals learn responsible sound management. Partnerships with high street audiologists make hearing checks accessible, while high-fidelity, reusable hearing protection ensures safe enjoyment of music.

Listen For Life champions awareness, protection, testing, and access, aiming to double education, hearing protection use, and testing rates within a decade. By promoting hearing health as an essential part of music culture, the campaign ensures that everyone can continue to enjoy music safely, fostering a lasting positive behavioural change.

For more information, visit: www.listenforlife.co.uk



Liverpool City Region // Music Board

Liverpool City Region Music Board

Liverpool has long been a beacon of music, nightlife, and cultural dynamism with a nighttime economy generating £1.6bn a year and supporting more than 50,000 jobs. Liverpool City Region Music Board (LCRMB) was established in

December 2018 as an independent, sector-led board appointed by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) to give the music sector a formal voice in local and regional decision-making, support business growth, skills and talent development, and strengthen the LCR music ecosystem across the six boroughs. Under the stewardship of the LCRMB, a £4m programme of strategic sector support with £2m of LCRCA Strategic Investment Funding has made significant contributions to issues of safety, inclusion, access and sustainability within the NTE.

Key programmes include:

- successfully lobbying Liverpool City Council to adopt the Agent of Change principle protecting music venues from the impact of new developments;
- mapping of Liverpool's City Region's live music scene and digital interactive platform;
- reinstatement of a Night Bus Service connecting South Liverpool, the city centre, and Birkenhead;
- addressing inequalities in the LCR music sector including the Black Music Action Group, ReMap report, mentorship and funding programmes;
- strengthening Liverpool's UNESCO city of Music designation through branding, campaigns, and strategic industry partnerships.

With a continued focus on business support, education, and music tourism, the Board remains committed to reinforcing Liverpool's status as a world-class music city and maximising the Eurovision 2023 legacy.

For further information: <https://www.lcrmusicboard.co.uk/>



Local Alcohol Partnerships Group

Local Alcohol Partnerships Group The Local Alcohol Partnerships Group (LAPG) was established in 2012 and brings together representatives from local partnership schemes which seek to minimise alcohol harm and promote conditions for the safe and responsible sale and consumption of alcohol in town and city centres and local communities.

More information: <https://localalcoholpartnershipsgroup.co.uk/>



The Loop

The Loop aims to reduce drug-related harm through our healthcare interventions, trainings and workshops informed by our research and drug checking. We are committed to ensuring our harm reduction advice is available to the public in a variety of community settings, and that related information is communicated and

disseminated widely to reduce drug related harm.

Evidence shows drug checking is effective in reducing drug-related harm and The Loop continues to expand this evidence base, alongside partner agencies and with similar services developing internationally.

Working through trained volunteers, The Loop's mission and vision include a commitment to developing a nationwide network of drug checking services that is non-judgemental, accessible and available to all. This requires us to consider equality of access, and through doing so, recognise the challenges and barriers which may exist for individuals and communities. We are then able to consider responses and deliver solutions.

As well as providing drug checking services, The Loop issues drug alerts of substances that have been tested by The Loop and are considered to present a significant threat, as well as conducting welfare and advice services at premises and festivals.

For more information, visit: <https://wearetheloop.org/>



Manchester Women's Night Safety Charter

We launched the 'Manchester Women's Night-time Safety Charter' in September 2022, with over 600 businesses now signed up, pledging to put measures in place which ensure staff are trained on how to support and keep women safe. The charter has also empowered staff to spot and take action against predatory behaviour before it puts any women at risk.

Businesses supporting the Charter are offered free training sessions for their staff to access on 'Welfare, vulnerability and active bystander'. This has now been delivered to more than

2500 people who work in the night time economy giving them the tools to notice and act upon vulnerability.

The Charter is just one of the initiatives taken to improve safety for women. Others include the launch of the city's first free safety app 'WalkSafe Manchester', the 'Good Night Out Guide' and the police VAWG-focused operation 'Op Safer Streets'.

For more information, visit:

https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/100004/the_council_and_democracy/8416/womens_night-time_safety_charter



Music Minds Matter

Music Minds Matter is a charity working to supporting the mental health of everyone working in music across the UK. Launched in 2017 as a helpline, it was created to address the unique mental health pressures faced by those in music – from artists on stage to behind-the-scenes professionals.

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the charity provides a dedicated mental health support line alongside other services such as

counselling, and self-care sessions. The charity works with key partners including their clinical partner, BAPAM, and has established an Allies programme with organisations such as the BPI, FAC and MMF. The charity also has corporate partners who help to further the impact of the charity.

The charity works with allies who support people working in music related roles at night to address the unique pressures they face to ensure they have the tools and resources to stay mentally well. This is in addition to Music Minds Matter providing mental health assessments and access to bursaries for mental health care.

The impact to date has been substantial. In 2024, the charity provided over 5,000 interventions to more than 3,000 individuals, demonstrating the vital role this charity plays in supporting the music community's mental health and wellbeing. For more information, visit: www.musicmindsmatter.org.uk



National Pubwatch

National Pubwatch is a voluntary organisation which was established in 1997, to support the work of local Pubwatch schemes with the aim of creating safer drinking environments in the pub and hospitality sector.

Pubwatch schemes are local voluntary forums of licensees who work together to reduce crime and anti-social in their venues.

The cornerstone of most schemes is the collective exclusion of troublesome individuals. Most Pubwatch schemes will also introduce or support local initiatives that impact on issues that affect the safety of staff and customers.

National Pubwatch supports local Pubwatch schemes and promotes good practice through its conferences, newsletters and social media. It provides free documentation and materials such as posters and a range of free training aids such as workbooks and films. Good practice by Pubwatch schemes and individuals is acknowledged and celebrated through its various awards.

National Pubwatch provides a range of training materials such as workbooks and films which are freely available on its website Resources page, in particular its 'Good Practice Pub':

<https://nationalpubwatch.org.uk/good-practice-pub/>

In 2025 [Leeds Beckett University published its research](#) into the effectiveness of Pubwatch. It established that the majority of respondents thought that Pubwatch:

- Helps create a safer drinking environment
- Encourages responsible management of licensed premises
- Encourages sharing of good practice

Licensee, police and other stakeholder respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend joining a scheme.

National Pubwatch: <https://nationalpubwatch.org.uk/>

Leeds Beckett University, 2025: <https://nationalpubwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/NPW-Final-Report-PDF-20-02-25.pdf>



Night Safe Spaces Accreditation

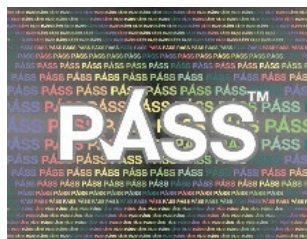
The Night Safe Spaces Accreditation (NSSA) is a national programme designed to transform safeguarding in the night-time economy. Powered by the Night Time Industries Association, it moves beyond tokenistic, box-ticking training to deliver real, people-focused change. At its core, NSSA is not about venues or policies; it is about people. We are in the business of serving individuals: staff, customers, and communities who deserve to feel safe, respected, and supported after hours.

Central to this programme is the Night Safe Champion Welfare Engagement Officer, a visible point of support within every accredited organisation. Champions are trained to recognise vulnerability, de-escalate situations and connect people with the right welfare services. More than compliance, they help embed a culture of care and accountability, ensuring safeguarding is lived out on the ground.

Accredited organisations gain recognition as leaders in safety and inclusivity, with access to training, resources, and ongoing support. But the impact goes far deeper: through genuine partnership working between venues, workers, local authorities, and communities, NSSA drives a cultural shift where safeguarding becomes a collective responsibility.

When we move beyond performance and start working together with one shared goal, the result is simple: everyone gets home safe.

For further information: <https://nightsafespaces.com/accreditation/>



Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS)

The PASS SCHEME accredits Proof of Age Card organisations throughout the UK who issue cards mainly to, but not exclusively to younger persons enabling access to restricted goods and services.

The PASS card scheme is operated by a Community Interest Company providing accreditation to suppliers of Proof of Age Cards in the UK. The card suppliers are assessed against strict standards by qualified auditors to ensure that they operate to the highest standards.

Sellers of age restricted products can be confident in accepting cards with a PASS hologram, safe in the knowledge that the scheme is supported by the police, trading standards and a wide range of trade bodies.



Purple Flag

Purple Flag is an international accreditation that recognises excellence in the evening and night-time economy (ENTE). Established by the Civic Trust after eight years of research and managed by ATCM since 2010, the scheme highlights towns and cities that offer safe, vibrant and diverse nightlife. Over 90 areas worldwide, including in the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Malta, New Zealand and Australia, currently have Purple Flag status.

The accreditation is based on a comprehensive framework of standards, good practice and evaluation, designed to support the development of thriving ENTEs. Five core themes underpin the programme: wellbeing, movement, appeal, place, and policy envelope.

A collaborative approach is essential to success, with local authorities, BIDs, police, businesses, educational institutions and communities all playing a role. Reported benefits include enhanced reputation and public image, broader visitor appeal and higher local spend, reduced crime and anti-social behaviour, and stronger long-term economic sustainability through a balanced mix of uses.

By setting a recognised benchmark, Purple Flag provides both recognition and a pathway for continuous improvement in managing the ENTE.

For further information: <https://www.atcm.org/purple-flag>



Retail of Alcohol Standards Group

The Retail of Alcohol Standards Group focuses on work around preventing underage drinking, as well as promoting high standards among alcohol retailers.

The Group was established in 2005 by national retailers in an effort to eradicate underage alcohol sales. Its work today continues to focus on driving down underage alcohol sales, primarily through the Challenge 25 Scheme, addressing underage drinking through Community Alcohol Partnerships and promoting high standards among alcohol retailers through its Guidance for the Responsible Retailing of Alcohol.

For more information, visit: <https://rasg.org.uk/>



ROC Angels (Street Angels)

ROC Angels empowers local people of goodwill to work together for safer, stronger communities especially within the third spaces of society, such as: the night-time economy; music festivals and events; around pubs and clubs; within town and city centres and local communities. They seek to equip and resource, connect with others and offer projects and ideas that work.

ROC Angels is the umbrella organisation for around [100 local projects](#) working within the night-time economy, at major events (such as music festivals) or within communities across the UK and in America, Spain, Seychelles, Australia and Brazil. [They aim to help change a culture with a UK reduction in alcohol related violence and A&E admissions.](#)

For more information, visit: <https://www.streetangels.org.uk/>



Safer Business Network

Safer Business Network

Safer Business Network works in partnership with the Mayor of London, local authorities, the police, businesses and

organisations across the capital to improve safety and wellbeing in the night-time economy. We deliver and champion the Women's Night Safety Charter, which commits organisations to seven pledges to make London a safer, more inclusive city for women at night. More than 3,000 organisations across most industry sectors have now signed up, embedding measures that prioritise safety, staff awareness, and inclusive design.

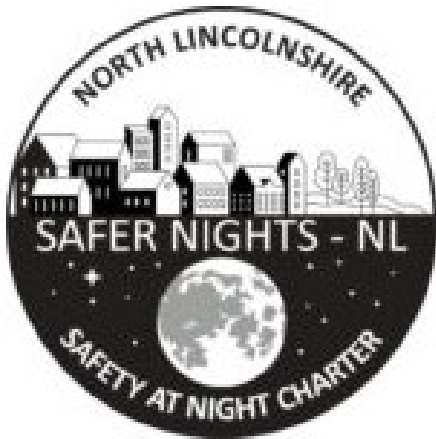
We also lead on Safe Havens, a citywide network of businesses and organisations that provide temporary refuge for anyone who feels unwell, unsafe, or vulnerable. This practical initiative builds community trust and strengthens resilience in local areas.

Alongside this, our [WAVE \(Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement\) Training](#) equips frontline staff in licensed venues and public spaces with the tools to identify and support vulnerable people, de-escalate situations, and promote safer nights out. To date, tens of thousands of staff have been trained, delivering measurable improvements in welfare outcomes and public confidence.

Together, these programmes directly support the Charter's principles of a safe, inclusive, and thriving night-time economy through collaborative partnership and evidence-led best practice.

For more information, visit: <https://www.saferbusiness.org.uk/>

WAVE (Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement) Training: <https://saferbusiness.org.uk/wave-angela/>



Safer Nights – North Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

The CSP were successful in a bid to The Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to implement a Safer Nights campaign designed from scratch with consultation/support from partners/venues. It aims to enhance safety in the NTE through community engagement, training, and a commitment to responsible socialising. Emphasising the importance of collective responsibility among venues, staff, and patrons to ensure everyone feels secure. Including a Safety at Night Charter venues sign demonstrating commitment to safety and proactive measures against issues like drink spiking/violence. The charter ensured venues were committed to training in Ask for Angela, Bystander, Bleed kits and LSAVI accreditation, to being an

active member of pub watch, use the DISC app, working with partners/police and responsible for outside their venue not just issues inside.

Once signed up they received training, branded products which include neon signs, staff T shirts, beer mats, spiking/test kits, bleed kits and Ask For Angela products specifically branded with NL logos/Safer Nights logos.

The bid also included 5 SOS points being installed and directly linked to North Lincolnshire's CCTV. Each point has a camera above; once the button is pressed the operative speaks directly the person pressing it while watching them on the camera. The call is then triaged and appropriate assistance sought.

We have also partnered with WalkSafe, the UK's most downloaded personal safety App, features a safety map that will show the NTE venues signed up to the charter, safety information on the menu button (including the SOS points and personal safety tools like WalkSafe Journey Sharing, Follow Me and Home Safe). It's free to North Lincolnshire residents– a launch event was held attended by the WalkSafe founder.

For more information visit: <https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/jobs-business-and-regeneration/safer-nights/>



Showstop (Pink Bows Foundation)

'Every Crowd Deserves to Return Home Safely'

With proper planning, safety protocols, and effective crowd management strategies we can save lives, together.

Pink Bow's mission is to collaborate, raise awareness, and provide approved safety solutions that enhance a safer environment for event goers. Their focus is to prevent another tragedy, reduce risks and promote a positive safety culture in the event industry.

This includes the promotion of the Showstop® Procedure training program, the first-ever standardized safety protocol for large scale events.

More information: <https://pinkbowsfoundation.org/>



St Helens Borough Council – Safe Nights, Great Places

St Helens Borough Council initiative: Safe Nights, Great Places includes several elements to promote Safe Helens as a safe and diverse night time economy:

- A night time economy forum.
- Campaign and communications linking venues directly with the public through Facebook highlighting the safety features of partnership working.
- Community Safety Partnership, which has funded:
 - Improved, higher specification lighting to remove potential areas for crime and increase the feeling of safety.
 - Training packages requested by the venues and developed by a local provider with knowledge of the NTE including, successfully operating a licensed premises, basic first aid, customer care, conflict management, vulnerability and bystander training.
 - ‘Safe Home’ cards issued to all licensed premises to utilise with taxi operators when they spotted a vulnerable person in or around their premises.
 - Safe Nights, Great Places
 - Safe spaces – including phone chargers, free water, seating, foil blankets
- Pubwatch scheme with a regular monthly attendance of 25-30 venues.
- Police Licensing and local policing have worked in partnership with the Council to implement our Statement of Licensing Policy to achieve the highest standards with venues.
- Arts Development: a new project working with the Council’s arts team to bring together the music and cultural offer of the venues and assist them with developing this programme and their combined events.

[Safe Nights, Great Places: St Helen’s Town Centre](#)



Street Pastors

Street Pastors are volunteers from different churches who care about the safety and wellbeing of their community. We come together and act as a peaceful and practical help on night time streets and a caring, listening and helpful presence in our communities. We are an approachable and non-judgmental team looking after anyone who is in need of support, uniquely identifiable by our uniforms, caps and bags.

Working together with local authorities, registered services, the local police, local businesses and often local bars, pubs and clubs, we practically help vulnerable people who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or homeless, or disoriented by mental illness, or young or lost or lonely. We help people on the streets and other public places by giving guidance and signposting to other available support services.

We can provide safety for vulnerable persons, including

- handing out foil blankets to people exposed to the changing environment/weather,
- dispensing water and lollipops for energy,
- giving flip-flops to people who have taken off their shoes,
- responding to requests from the Police or NTE staff for our help with disoriented people,
- being present at potential conflicts to reduce and prevent violence,
- providing first aid where necessary,
- waiting for emergency services to arrive,
- liaising with friends or family members for safe meeting points and
- arranging transport for those unable to get home unassisted.

We also remove bottles and other potential weapons from the streets to discourage violence and vandalism.

For more information, visit: <https://www.streetpastors.org/>



Swindon Council

In Swindon a multi-agency approach is delivering a coordinated, evidence-led approach to a safe, welcoming night-time economy. There is clear focus in the Swindon Community Safety Partnership

Strategy 2025–2028, where all of the 3 priorities link in to impacts on the community around the NTE. It is understood that working across that partnership in a holistic fashion can help promote “A Safer, Stronger Swindon for All” and create a safer, stronger, and more cohesive Swindon where harm is reduced, individuals feel safer, and vulnerabilities are addressed effectively.

Frequent and consistent collaboration between the Borough Council Licensing Team, the Police Alcohol Licensing Officer (PALO), operational police officers, and venue operators and staff provides a strong foundation for promoting all four licensing objectives (under the Licensing Act 2003): ensuring public safety, preventing crime and disorder, reducing public nuisance, and protecting children and vulnerable individuals from harm.

Pubwatch provides real-time intelligence sharing and consistent banning policies, reinforcing high standards across venues. Through Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (Licensing SAVI/LSAVI) and WAVE (Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement) training, venues upskill staff to identify and respond to vulnerability, spiking, and predatory behaviour, embedding “Ask for Angela” and robust safeguarding protocols. Street Pastors offer a compassionate, non-enforcement presence, reducing demand on emergency services and helping people get home safely.

The OPCC for Swindon and Wiltshire was successful in securing funding through the Home Office’s Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspot Fund which allows Taxi Marshals to operate on Friday and Saturday nights.

They work until 6 am to manage ranks, support vulnerable patrons and improve dispersal; working closely with licensed venues and doorstaff along with licensed taxi and private hire drivers and Police.

The Police's Operation Vigilant targets opportunistic sexual offending around the NTE, using proactive patrols, CCTV tasking, and early interventions aligned with venue and marshal briefings. Wiltshire Police have worked with a wide range of partner agencies on such operations in Swindon; sometimes involving over 30 staff from the Police and those agencies these operations can be very impactful.

The PALO has built a good working relationship with the SIA regional investigator and they will assist with joint investigations and NTE patrols.

Together, these measures demonstrate a mature, partnership-driven model that raises standards, protects the vulnerable, and supports thriving, responsibly managed venues in Swindon. The crucial point being that the Police, council, venue operators and all stakeholders/ representative groups understand that working together through genuine partnership(s) can and does make a genuine difference and ultimately promotes public safety and all four licensing objectives in a tangible fashion.



Wigan Council

Wigan Borough is committed to creating a night time economy that is not only vibrant and inclusive, but also safe and welcoming for all. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve public perceptions, we conduct two perception surveys annually. These insights help shape our approach and inform the promotion of key safety initiatives, which we

actively share across our social media platforms.

Some of our initiatives include:

- LSAVI – A self-assessment tool designed to help licensed premises create safer environments for staff and customers.
- Ask for Angela – A nationally recognised scheme we encourage licensed venues to adopt, offering discreet support to individuals who feel vulnerable during a night out.
- Call It Out – A council-led campaign aimed at raising awareness and supporting people to report inappropriate behaviour.
- Get Home Safe – Another council-led campaign providing advice on safe travel options after a night out.

To further enhance safety, we deploy Safety and Taxi Marshals in key locations across the Borough. We've also recently launched a Safe Haven in Wigan Town Centre — a dedicated space offering immediate support to anyone in need during the night time hours.

Collaboration is at the heart of our approach. We are proud to work alongside a wide range of partners who play vital roles in supporting our night time economy. Our monthly Pub Watch meetings, chaired by a licensed premises, bring together local businesses and council officers to share best practices, raise standards, and promote safety through joint action.



Women's Night Safe Space (Leeds)

Women's Night Safe Space is safe bus for women and girls to come to or be referred to in Leeds city centre at night if they feel concerned, unsafe, unwell or vulnerable. We are here for women to seek refuge, support and advice.

We are there to make sure Leeds city centre is a safe, comfortable and fun space for all women.

Support may include:

- Mobile phone charging facilities
- Water, refreshments and warm drinks
- Support calling a taxi
- Somewhere to talk through concerns and be signposted for further support
- Somewhere to report incidents to the police and wait for further assistance
- Somewhere to wait for friends so they are not alone
- A non-judgemental warm place with a friendly face

All women are welcome for whatever reason.

The scheme was piloted in March 2022 after a city wide consultation with women and girls about safety, where nearly 1,500 women shared experiences and ideas. We then launched in November 2022 and the service has run ever since, now having supported over 3,000 women and girls. Currently we run every Saturday 10pm-3am in Leeds City Centre, and in partnership with Leeds First Friday, the UK's largest Trans+ Social Event. Depending on funding we also run on other dates with events. Wider work of the service has included;

- events for women working in hospitality,
- delivering Switch onto Women's Safety training,
- safety campaigns,
- joint licensing visits during weeks of action and
- PubWatch talks.

For more information, visit: <https://womenfriendlyleeds.org/womens-night-safe-space/>



Westminster CAB

The Licensing Advice Project, provided by Westminster Citizens Advice (WCA) and funded by Westminster City Council (WCC), was set up in 2005.

It is the only service of its kind in the country, and provides advice, information and advocacy to residents and businesses in respect of their rights and responsibilities under relevant licensing legislation.

The need for advice on issues related to LA03 was identified by WCC at the inception of the Licensing Act 2003 (LA03). WCC partnered with WCA to provide a service to ensure that its residents and amenity societies could play a full role in the democratic process.

The remit of the Project was subsequently expanded to include Gambling Act 2005 and sexual entertainment venues.

Typically, the work of the Project involves advice on submission of representations, advice throughout the process, including mediation, and representation at licensing hearings.

The Project delivers important benefits to clients, the local authority and the licensing process, helping to ensure that objectors put their views across effectively but proportionately, and focus on relevant issues in written representations and at hearings.

The Project is perhaps most effective when assisting in mediation between parties leading to an agreed settlement or, where this is not possible, advocacy on behalf of residents at licensing hearings.

In 'levelling the playing field' we help to ensure a fairer licensing process, particularly at hearings, which can result in more robust decision-making.

The Project has a [dedicated website](#). We also engage with wider issues in licensing law on behalf of residents, for example responding to consultations and helping residents and residents' groups to engage with consultations at both local and national level.

The Project's work necessitates fostering links with residents' groups, responsible authorities, and other important stakeholders, and developing effective working relationships with legal advisors to the hospitality industry.

The Project has been referred to as a 'best practice' example of good engagement facilitated by a local authority.

For more information, visit: <https://licensingadvice.org/>



White Ribbon

The White Ribbon is the globally recognised symbol to end men's violence against women and girls. Since the inception of the White Ribbon movement 34 years ago in

Canada, the White Ribbon has become an important symbol in the fight to end gender-based violence.

Allyship is a central message of the White Ribbon; it represents men taking responsibility to challenge this issue and being allies, every day, to stop violence against women and girls before it starts.

We do our work through grassroots campaigning, engaging individuals, especially men, to be allies and advocates through our Ambassador and Champion programmes.

Our approach is:

- **Preventative.** We focus on supporting individuals and organisations to intervene before harmful attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls can take place. This work is called primary prevention; we want to stop violence from happening in the first place.
- **Intersectional.** White Ribbon UK centre's women's experiences across all its work. We remain accountable to all women and girls, and our work to develop allyship in men and boys is led by an understanding that women have different experiences of abuse and violence based on their identities. Adopting an intersectional understanding to tackle harmful gender norms also challenges other forms of discrimination.
- **Collaborative and focused on positive culture change.** Not all men are violent, but all men have a role to play in preventing and, ultimately, ending violence against women and girls. Through our work, we encourage men to learn about the gender norms and traits they embody and how these impact women, and understand the difference they can make by being allies.

For more information, visit: <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/>

Bibliography and Credits



Bibliography

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Credits

In early 2025, the Institute of Licensing (IoL) established a Partnership Steering Group under the leadership of IoL Patron Philip Kolvin KC to look at the potential for the development of a Partnership Charter, designed to champion partnership working and to highlight examples of good practice already in place across the country.

PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP

The Steering Group comprised:

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