

**BEDFORD STREET ANGELS**

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## **News Release**

Issued on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### **Safe Space proposal moved forward following funding from Nightclubs and police**

Nightclub owners along with Bedfordshire Police has come together to support proposals for a Safer Space initiative in the Bedford Town Centre by each donating £3,500. Safer Space is an initiative being led by the Bedford Street Angels who celebrated their one year anniversary recently and as part of their celebration had a cheque presented from the Chair of the Bed:safe Licensees Meeting, Paul Dawson. Safer space picks up on work from other parts of the country including Brighton and Hove.

The Bed:safe Space, as it will be known, will provide an opportunity for clubbers to have refreshments, to receive first aid supplied by St John's Ambulance and provide a suitable venue to wait until they are able to be picked up. The scheme aims to run every Friday and Saturday from 10.00pm until 3.00am. This builds upon the work of operation Bed:safe which has been running in Bedford Borough since 2003. Whilst in operation, the teams hope to deal with vulnerable, emotional, distressed and ill members of the public and hope s to provide first aid, advice and assistance, and emotional support.

This new initiative hopefully will save the time and resources of both the local Police, Ambulance and Accident & Emergency department as well as providing a resource to venues in the town centre where customers finding themselves in distress could be directed to.

Adam May, Project Director of Bedford Street Angels welcomed the funding saying

“The donation of £3,500 by the Bed:safe licensees in the town and also Bedfordshire Police is a welcome testimony of the work of Bedford Street Angels in its first twelve months in operation. We have appreciated the strong working relationship with Bed:safe and Bedfordshire Police since our early days and I hope this continues to be the case.

The planned launch of a Bedford Safer Space in the coming months will be a much need resource to the town, especially as agencies work together to support the volunteers during a Friday and Saturday night. We are hoping that the news of this project in Bedford town will quickly spread amongst clubbers and people out drinking as this along with other information will be a great promotional asset for us and will inform people where to go for help.”

There will be an open meeting to find out more about this exciting initiative on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 7.00pm in Russell Park Baptist Church, Denmark Street.

**END**

For further media enquiries, please contact Adam May, Project Director for Bedford Street Angels by telephone 07532 371 311 or email [adam@bedfordstreetangels.org.uk](mailto:adam@bedfordstreetangels.org.uk). Adam May is available for interview by arrangement.

Photograph of the presentation between Major Ian Loxley, Chair of the Bedford Street Angels, Frank Fender, Coordinator of Bed:safe from Bedford Borough Council and Paul Dawson, Chair of the Bed:safe Licensees Forum