

## **Safer Space Proposal**

Welcome to the first Bed Safe Space information newsletter created to keep staff and partners of the project up-to-date with developments

Bed Safe Space is run in conjunction with Bedfordshire Police`s Operation BEDSAFE in Bedford town centre..



### **The Story So Far....**

Operation Bed safe is a high visibility policing operation in Bedford town centre and has been running since 2003.

This is where uniformed officers from Bedfordshire police are deployed in Bedford town centre on foot and in marked vehicles in a bid to reduce crime and disorder, underage drinking and anti social behaviour and this normally operates between 2100 hrs and 0400 hrs on a Friday and Saturday night.

Whilst in operation, the team 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 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. We are hoping that the news of this project in Bedford town quickly spreads 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.

### **Members of the Safe Space team**

The Bed Safe Space which consists of officers from the Licensing Dept of Bedfordshire Police, Bedford Street Angels, Bedford Borough Council, St Johns Ambulance, ,East Of England Ambulance service, Sexual health staff from Bedfordshire Nhs trust and volunteers recognises that the Bed Safe Space is a service which we want to provide all year round to the people of Bedford and to all its visitors.

### **Aims of the project.**

By having a sustained period of delivery and development we hope to be able to have a clear demonstrable impact on our service objectives to:

- Reduce the number of people held in custody overnight due to intoxication.

- Reduce the amount of hours wasted by the Emergency services.
- Reduce the number of people admitted to A&E due to intoxication.
- Reduce the number of people attending A&E due to minor injuries.
- Allow a more visible presence of Police officers in the town centre.
- Increase awareness of Safe Space to the public and licensed premises.
- Offer support to people in need or those in distress where an emergency service may not be appropriate.
- Offer follow-up calls to signpost Safe Space users to appropriate services.

We also aim to be able to encourage investment by the night-time economy and other stakeholders in providing a much needed service.

To assist us getting the Bed Safe Space project running we have received generous donations from the following:

Bedfordshire police  
Bedford Borough Council  
Bedfordshire NHS trust  
St Johns Ambulance  
East of England Ambulance Service  
Tesco  
Sainsburys  
Licensed premises within Bedford Town centre  
plus promotional support Local radio stations and Local newspapers

We hope you have appreciated this update and we continue to value your support. If you would like to gain more information, offer further assistance or even volunteer your time or skills to help take the project forward it would be greatly appreciated.