

Pilot Weekend for Bristol’s First ‘Safe Space’ Scheme

A mobile outreach scheme offering wellbeing services to those in Bristol’s city centre is being piloted for two nights on 6th and 7th December.

The service will offer a secure space for people to wait for friends, charge phones and arrange transport, and will provide access to talking support, crime reporting and basic first aid.



The Bristol Safe Space mobile unit

A collaboration between Avon and Somerset Police and Bristol Business Improvement District, project coordinator Detective Sergeant Emily Welch explained that the Safe Space pilot is for “anyone who might be vulnerable in the nighttime economy, or who’s experiencing a problem and needs support.”

Based next to St Augustine’s Parade and running between 9pm – 6am on Friday and Saturday, the service will work alongside the Alcohol Recovery Centre (ARC), who provide medical support to those affected by drugs and alcohol in the city centre.

“We’ve been told by those at ARC that they often see people who are in need of wellbeing services similar to what we’re hoping to provide, so we’re hoping Safe Space will fill that gap.” Emily shares.

Safe Space will also signpost users to other outreach services in Bristol depending on their needs, including [Bristol Street Pastors](#), [Hope Against Suicide](#), [Bristol City Centre Radio Scheme](#), and Operation BRIO.

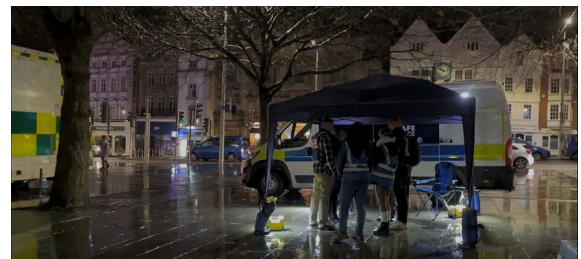


Bristol’s Alcohol Recovery Centre, run by ambulance staff

Anthony Kemp from Hope Against Suicide, a patrol group offering mental health support and community intervention on Friday nights, said he was pleased to be involved with the pilot and that Safe Space aligns closely with what Hope Against Suicide aim to achieve.

With a goal to launch a permanent Safe Space scheme to protect vulnerable people and prevent violence against women and girls, Carmen Ceesay from Bristol City Centre BID said that the pilot will be an important opportunity to “prove the need of a sustainable service to keep people secure”.

“We want to provide a message of hope” adds Emily, “that this service can go forward and provide support for people on a regular basis.”



Hope Against Suicide volunteers helping set up

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