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Spiking and ASK FOR ANGELA GUIDANCE NOTES V2 2021

What does spiking mean?

To spike a drink means to put alcohol or drugs into someone's drink without their knowledge or permission. The aim may be to incapacitate someone enough to rob or sexually assault them, although sometimes it is just intended as a joke – a bad joke as it is very dangerous.

There is also some concern at the possibility that people are being 'spiked' by needles/syringes containing drugs. Although this is much less likely than drink spiking, many of the same tips for staying safe can protect you here too. Spiking is a criminal offence and venues should take steps to ensure they are safe places to be, but you still need to protect yourself, particularly if you feel unsafe.

Tips to stay safe

- Plan your night out, including your journey there and back including alternative routes.
- Make sure the venue you are going to is licensed – venues are required to take steps to ensure the safety of their customers, also note when Door Supervisors are working if possible.
- When going to a pub, club or party avoid going alone. Friends can look out for one another.
- Stay aware of what is going on around you and keep away from situations you don't feel comfortable with.
- Think very carefully about whether you should leave a pub, club or party with someone you've just met, or do not really know.
- Make sure your mobile phone has plenty of charge in it, or take a charging cable with you or a charging bank before you leave home and keep your mobile safe and secure at all times.

How to avoid drink spiking?

- Always buy your own drink and watch it being poured.
- Don't accept drinks from strangers.
- Never leave your drink unattended while you dance or go to the toilet.
- Don't drink or taste anyone else's drink.



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- Throw your drink away if you think it tastes odd or been left unattended.

What if you think you have been spiked (by drink or needle)?

- If you start to feel strange, sick or drunk when you know that you couldn't be drunk, seek help from a trusted friend or the venue door supervisors and or management.
- If you think you have been spiked, get a close friend to get you out of the place as soon as possible and take you home or to hospital (if seriously unwell). Or ring a friend, relative or partner and ask them to come and pick you up.
- If you feel unsafe, vulnerable or threatened you can ask for help by approaching venue staff and asking them for '**Angela**'. Please see additional note below. This code-phrase indicates to staff that you need help and a trained member of staff will then support and assist you.
- Make sure you can trust the person you ask for help. Don't go anywhere with a stranger or acquaintance.
- Once you are safely home ask someone to stay with you until the effects of the drug have worn off, which could be several hours.
- Don't hesitate to call for medical help if you need it. And **do tell** the police what happened.

The law

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 states that it is an offence to administer a substance, to a person with intent to overpower that person to enable sexual activity with them. It is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment. This means that slipping alcohol or drugs into someone's drink is against the law, even if the drink is not consumed or the person is not harmed. The same would be true of needle spiking which would also be a physical assault.

Vulnerable People in Licensed Premises

Vulnerable people Door supervisors are likely to encounter vulnerable people whilst performing their day-to-day role.

Factors that can lead to a person being vulnerable include:

Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs People under the influence of alcohol or drugs can be vulnerable because they can:



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- Have reduced inhibitions
- Have decreased ability to make considered decisions
- Have changed perceptions of their own abilities and limitations
- Become overly social
- Display aggression
- Lack spatial awareness increasing the likelihood of them hurting themselves or others.

Individuals that are alone or are receiving unwanted attention Individuals that become separated from their group or appear lost or isolated can be vulnerable. An individual receiving unwanted attention over a period or is being followed or threatened can also be vulnerable.

Potential victims of domestic abuse Victims of domestic violence can be at an increased risk of assault and harm, which may be fuelled by alcohol. Young people Whilst anyone can be vulnerable, this is especially true of people under the age of 18.

Presence of a sexual predator A person may be more vulnerable if they are the target of a sexual predator. A sexual predator is a person who commits, or intends to commit, sexual crimes. Sexual predators are often friendly and self-assured but can have any profession, level of intelligence, age or belong to any race.

A person can be considered a sexual predator if they ignore the fact that a person cannot consent to sex if they are drunk.

Sexual predators may select or target victims based upon:

- Vulnerability
- Availability
- Gender
- Location
- Appearance.

There are several signs that could indicate whether a person is a sexual predator:

- A sexual predator may be a lone-person. If you see an individual being pestered, there are options that you may have. This might include:

Approaching the person being pestered to assess their safety

Informing the venue management

Calling the police

- Sexual predators can use drugs such as Rohypnol to facilitate their crimes. If you find drugs that you think might be Rohypnol or a similar drug that you feel may be used to facilitate a crime then call the police.

- If you see a heavily drunk person leaving the premises with someone who is not, consider intervening to get clarity on the safety of the drunk person.



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- If there is a regular lone person at the premises you may know who this person is.

Do they leave with a different person every time? Do they remain sober whilst the person they leave with seems to be heavily drunk? If so this may be an indication of a sexual predator. Being aware of these different types of vulnerable people will allow door supervisors to protect exposed individuals and prevent crimes from being committed.

As professional Door Supervisors, you have a duty of care and responsibility to watch out for people in your working environment, SAFETY comes first every time. You MUST challenge ANY inappropriate behaviour if safe to do so.

You MUST give your findings to the management to act accordingly, and then make a report in your report log regardless.

Remember a person or persons may come to you for HELP, even though They may appear drunk. **YOU MUST** assess the situation and respond accordingly for a good resolution of the situation, keeping **EVERYONE** safe.

Child sexual exploitation Door supervisors often work at night and may encounter some of the crimes associated with child sexual exploitation.

There are a number of warning signs that may be apparent, including:

- Children and young people in the company of older people or anti-social groups
- Young people acting in an inappropriate and sexualised way with adults or older people
- Children and young people intoxicated, particularly if they are with older people who are not drunk. Visible signs that children are being trafficked might mean child sexual exploitation is taking place.

Warning signs of this include:

- Children and young people arriving and departing a location with different adults on the same day or even over a period of time
- Children and young people getting into and out of a number of different cars
- Groups of young people using hotels or bed and breakfasts with older people.

Children who are being sexually exploited may show changes in behaviour or start to look different.



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The changes include:

- Unexplained changes in behaviour such as chaotic, aggressive or sexual behaviour
- Self-harming or suicidal attempts
- Showing fear in the certain company
- Having cuts and bruises
- Having unaffordable new items such as phones or clothes
- Having unaffordable new habits such as smoking, drinking or drugs. If you suspect that child sexual exploitation is taking place, you should contact the police. If you wish to remain anonymous, then you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If you think its an emergency its 999.

'Ask for Angela' is an innovative campaign enabling those who feel vulnerable in pubs and clubs to discreetly approach staff and request assistance and is being rolled out across the country following successful pilots.

Agencies in conjunction with Lancashire Police and Pub watch schemes, has produced posters and coasters to be distributed in local pubs and clubs.

The **'Ask for Angela'** initiative aims to reduce sexual violence and vulnerability by providing customers with a non-descript phrase they can use to gain assistance from staff members in order to be separated from the company of someone with whom they feel unsafe due to that person's actions, words or behaviour.

The initiative - originally launched by Lincolnshire County Council - has already proved successful following a Metropolitan Police pilot in Merton borough.

By **"asking for Angela"**, an individual is alerting staff that they require help.



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They will be taken aside, or to a safer location, so they can speak in confidence to that staff member about what assistance they need.

Options available to staff include, offering to call a taxi for the individual; contacting their friends or family; or requesting that an individual causing the distress leaves the venue.

If a member of the public or member of staff feel they need assistance, then if they come to a member of Tactical Security, or one of our Door Supervisors, they will take them to a safe zone. And ensure their safety, till the situation has been resolved.



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This guidance has been approved & authorised by:

Name: Dave Pattinson Stacey Vivian

Position: Managing Director

Date: 02.10.21

Signature: *Dave Pattinson*