

Women's Safety: Engagement with the Evening & Night-Time Economy and Licensed Venues



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Appendices 1

Welfare And Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) Training



- Welfare & Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training equips staff working in licensed premises to identify vulnerability, intervene safely and support people at risk.
- The training also covers:
 - Vulnerability awareness
 - Ask for Angela
 - Drink spiking
 - Safeguarding and referral pathways
- Training Offered:
 - **in person** sessions;
 - an **online** session,
 - self paced **eLearning** courses.
- This four-minute video provides overview of WAVE training and the Ask for Angela scheme:

<https://www.saferbusiness.org.uk/wave-and-ask-for-angela>



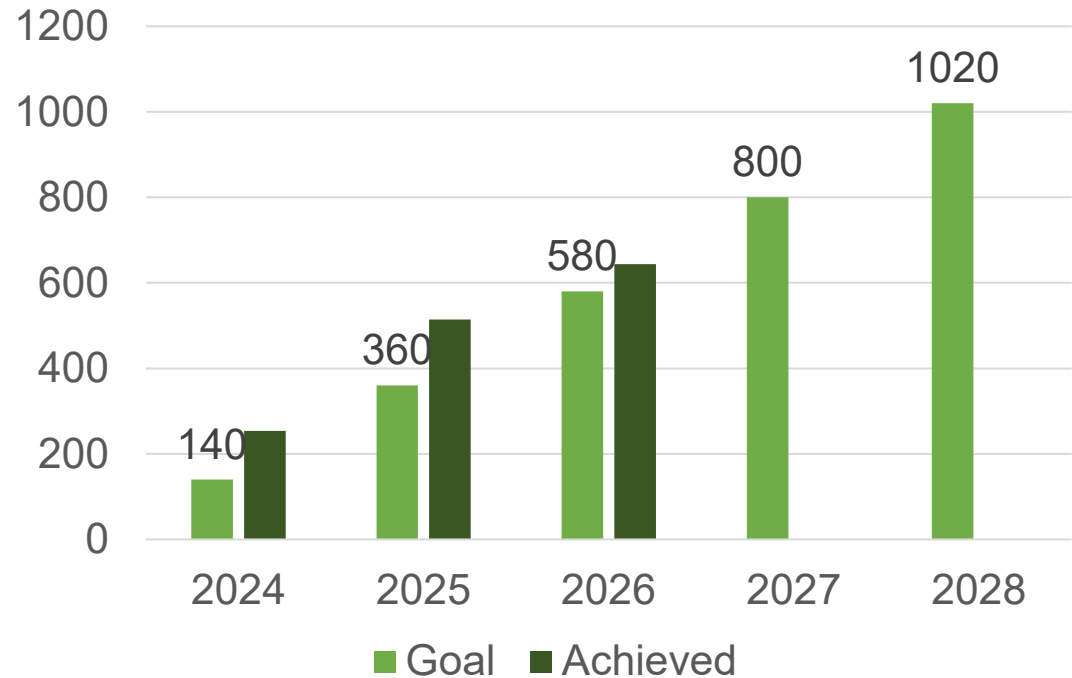
WAVE Venue Targets 2024 - 2028



• Key Achievements

- 644 staff trained since 2024
 - 296 venue training engagements completed
 - Target exceeded in both 2024 and 2025
 - Additional venues continue to undertake refresher training due to staff turnover
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- Some premises in Camden, in particular large venues, also arrange their own in-house WAVE training.

Wave Training Forecast & Progress: 2024 to 2028



WAVE Attendees Progress – 2024 to 2028

WAVE & 'Ask for Angela' Training: FY 25/26



- In FY 2025-26, Camden delivered **six WAVE training sessions**

3 April 2025 – The Standard
7 July 2025 – Drake & Morgan
2 Sept 2025 – Royal National Hotel
26 Nov 2025 - Meta
29 Jan 2026 - Online
5 Mar 2026 – Town Hall

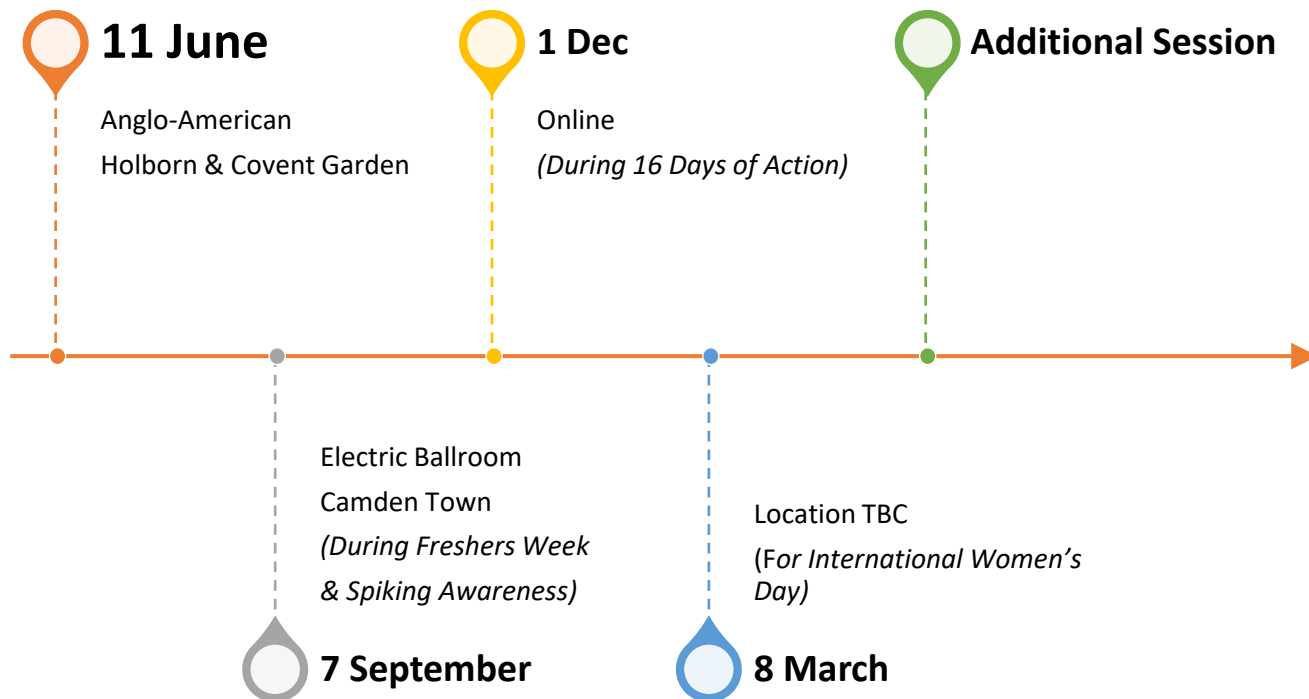


- Each training was delivered in different venues across Camden, with the aim to cover **diverse locations and venues** in the borough.
- This is supplemented by a **self-paced 40-minute e-learning course**, available for people to complete at any time by registering via the Camden website.

WAVE & 'Ask for Angela' Training: FY 26/27



- This FY 2026-27, Camden have **four WAVE training sessions scheduled**, and an additional session will be organised.
- Each training also includes the VR experience 'STAND UP' – Safeguarding Training in A New Dimension'.
- This immersive training experience tackles VAWG and nighttime economy



Camden Safety Bus



- Camden Town pedestrianised area, Friday and Saturday nights 9:30pm – 2:30am
- Safe space to charge your phone, have water, receive first aid, get directions etc
- Engagement with venues during regular patrols, raising awareness of training opportunities and the safety bus.
- Incidents of concern involving venues are shared with the Licensing Team and Police Licensing, then discussed at the women's safety working group for a joint response.



A godsend, my friend got spiked and they helped her all night.

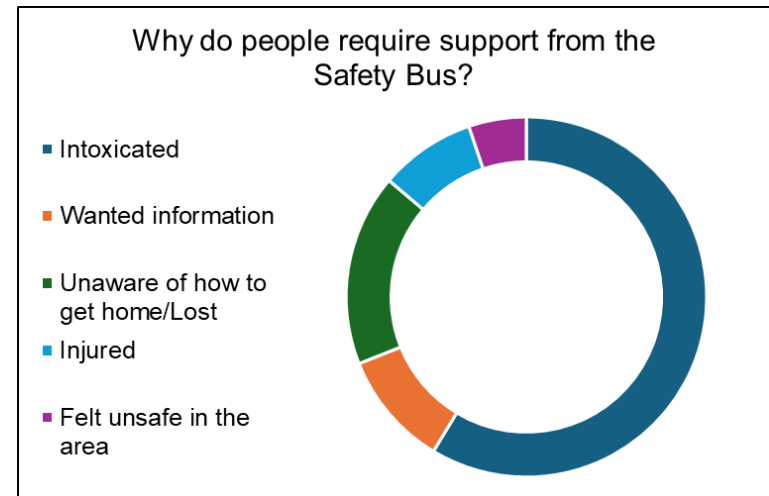
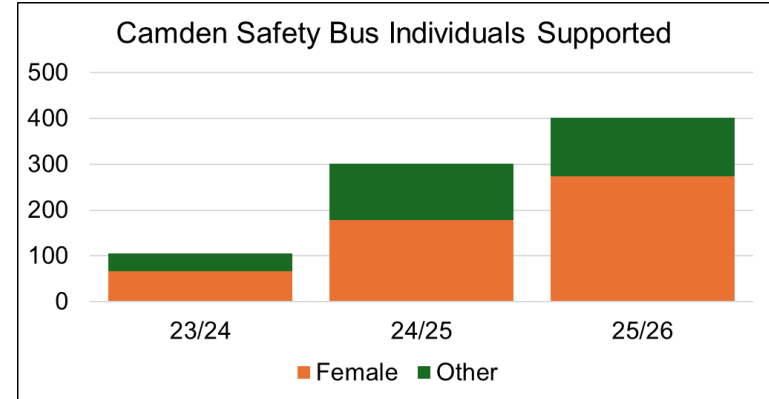
Everyone was so lovely we chatted for a while and then they gave us some flip flops as our heels were hurting.

I live in Oz, visiting a friend and the team charged our phone which allowed us to get an uber home. Big thank you from us.

Camden Safety Bus Data



- **Impact 25/26**
 - 402 people supported
 - Over 3,000 wider engagements
 - Women remain the largest group accessing support
 - Intoxication is the reason most people require support
- Reports made by Safety Bus officers are shared with Camden and MET Licensing teams to support wider safeguarding and enforcement activity.



Reported Drink Spiking Incidents in Camden 2023 – 2025



Year	Drink Spiking Incidents (MPS)	Total
2023	120 with premises details 56 no premises recorded	176
2024	139 with premises details 32 no premises recorded	171
2025	115 with premises details 41 no premises recorded	156

- Drink spiking incidents fell by 9% in 2025. However, there have already been 101 incidents recorded in the first 5 months of 2026, so the likelihood is the end of year total will be higher than previous years
- Bloomsbury, Holborn & Covent Garden and Camden Town wards remain spiking hotspots, consistent with Camden's night-time economy and high footfall areas.
- Reported incidents represent only part of the picture. National evidence suggests many incidents are not reported to police.

Spiking Awareness - Why this matters

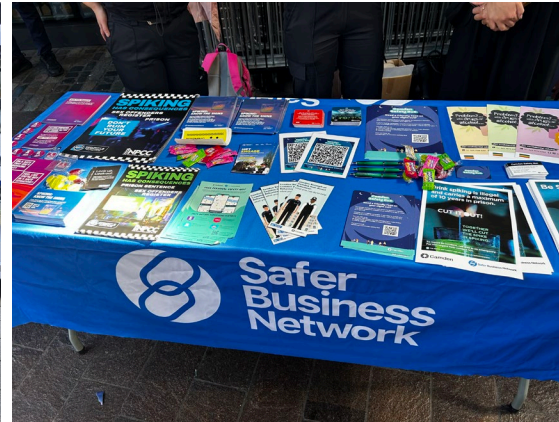
- Camden has nearly 30,000 higher education students
- Many are new to London and unfamiliar with support services
- Awareness campaigns help prevent harm and encourage reporting.



Spiking Awareness in Camden



The council also collaborated with SBN and the police during **international spiking awareness day**, and during the **16 Days of Action** with the launch of the **STAND UP VR**.



Spiking Awareness in Camden



This year events have been organised around **spiking awareness days/weeks**, there is continued **engagement with universities**, as well as **licensed premises** to raise awareness.

Spiking is now recognised as a **specific criminal offence** in the UK under the Crime and Policing Act 2026, strengthening protections for victims and improving police powers to prosecute offenders.

Key Dates & Events:

- **15 July** – International Spiking Awareness Day
 - STAND UP VR for the public in different locations in the borough, with Camden Safety Bus
- **7 Sept** – WAVE Training
 - During Freshers week and spiking awareness week.
- **22 Sept** – SOAS Safety Pop Up
- **3 Dec** – 16 Days of Action
 - STAND UP VR for the public in different locations in the borough, with Camden Safety Bus



Drugs training collaboration with The Loop

As part of Camden's Health & Wellbeing priorities **The Loop** has been commissioned to deliver **training to reduce drug-related harms** throughout 2026.

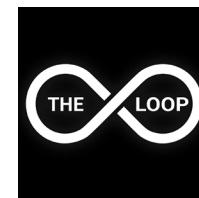
All training is free of charge for venues and night-time economy (NTE) workforce staff.

What's on offer? Sessions designed to equip the NTE workforce with the skills and confidence to recognise and respond to drug-related concerns.

- **Responding to drug use in the NTE** (includes drugs awareness - signs, risks/effects, UK drug market trends and harm reduction measures)
- **Drink spiking and drug-facilitated sexual assault**

So why take part?

- Build safer, more resilient venues within the London Borough of Camden
- Gain up-to-date drugs knowledge and practical tools/harm reduction advice
- Connect with other Camden venues, partners and wider stakeholders





- Safe Havens provide a temporary place of safety for anyone who feels vulnerable and needs assistance to continue their journey safely.
- Premises such as shops, cafes, pubs, libraries, and other places of interest can register to be officially known as a Safe Haven. Any venue can register on the Camden website to **express interest**.

Safe Havens provide a safe space. They can help by:

- providing a friendly face and reassurance;
- calling the police or family or friends;
- giving directions or public transport information.

To become a Safe Haven, a setting must:

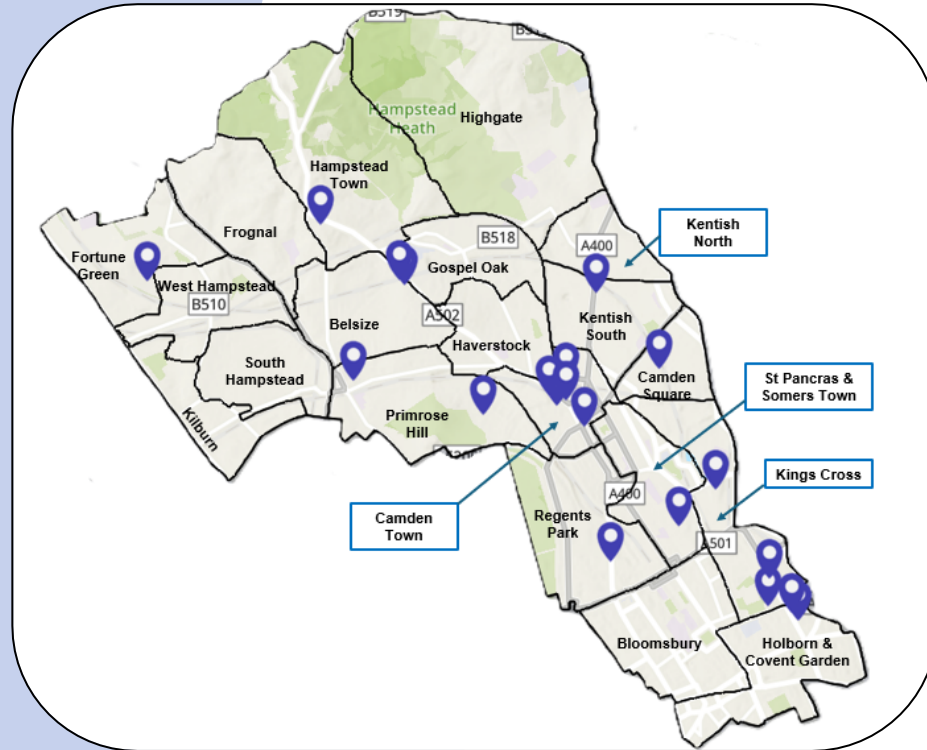
- attend the 90-minute training
- share the resources provided with their wider team
- go through a signposting document

Once these steps are completed the Safe Haven is sent window stickers to make them identifiable, and are added to the Safe Haven app, as well as Camden Councils website.

Safe Haven Map

Safe Haven Training has been delivered from October 2025, with **20 settings** now established as Safe Havens borough wide. This includes libraries, community centres and licensed venues.

This FY **3 training sessions** are scheduled; May 2026, October 2026 and February 2027.



Licensing Commitment – Why Licensing matters



The Licensing Authority views WAVE training, Ask for Angela and wider women's safety measures as important tools in promoting:

- Prevention of Crime
- DisorderPublic Safety

How Training is Promoted?

- Camden Licensing and Community Safety webpages and communications
- Pre-application advice service
- Direct communications to licence holders, solicitors and licensing consultants
- Committee reports highlighting applicant engagement with women's safety initiatives

Benefits of the Campaign

- Increases uptake of WAVE training
- Improves staff awareness and responses to vulnerability and women's safety concerns
- Strengthens partnership working across the night-time economy
- Helps create safer and more welcoming environments for all, particularly women

Licence Holder Expectations



Aligning with the Women's Night Safety Charter we expect our licensed premises to:

- Appoint a safety champion
- Promote women's safety to staff and customers
- Implement *Ask for Angela* and provide WAVE training
- Raise awareness on how to handle harassment
- Encourage victim and bystander reporting
- Train staff to believe and support all reports
- Design safer spaces for women at night
- Seek safety accreditation
- Engage with local needs and authorities.

Camden Council has been highlighted in the Partnership Charter for the Night Time Economy

Camden's collaboration and a commitment to safer, more vibrant and better-connected places, strengthens outcomes for communities, businesses and visitors.



Questions Members may wish to consider



When determining applications:

- How has the applicant considered women's safety?
- Will staff receive WAVE and Ask for Angela training?
- Are measures in place to address drink spiking and vulnerability?
- Is a licence condition necessary and proportionate?
- Does the operating schedule promote a safe night-time environment?

How can a condition be added to a premises licence?

- By the applicant in their operating schedule;
- During consultation or engagement;
- By Members at Committee.

Key Takeaways



- **Women's safety is a core priority within Camden's night-time economy.**
- **WAVE, Ask for Angela, Safe Havens and the Safety Bus provide a coordinated safeguarding approach**
- **Licensed premises are key partners in preventing harm.**
- **Licensing decisions can reinforce good practice through proportionate and appropriate conditions.**

