

GOING OUT, STAYING SAFE

IN LEAMINGTON

SURVEY FINDINGS REPORT

warwick
SU

THE SURVEY



In May 2018 Warwick Students' Union launched the '**Going Out, Staying Safe**' survey.

The survey delved into **students' experiences of nights out** in the local area with a focus on safety.

This report focuses on findings relevant to **Leamington Spa**.

THE RESPONSE

444 STUDENTS

RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY
WITH THEIR EXPERIENCES

412 STUDENTS

WHO RESPONDED WENT FOR
NIGHTS OUT IN LEAMINGTON SPA

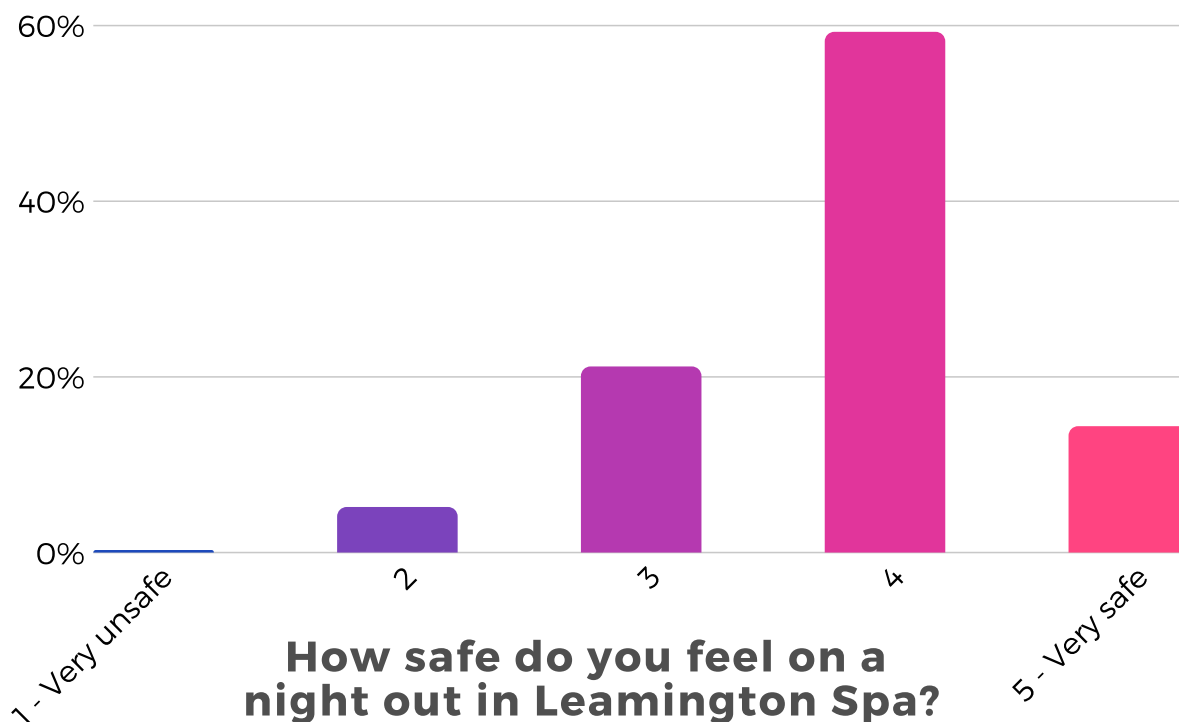
245 STUDENTS

WHO RESPONDED LIVED IN
LEAMINGTON SPA

campaigns@warwicksu.com

EXPERIENCES OF LEAMINGTON SPA

How safe do students feel?



44%

of students had experienced **harassment** on a night out

The average 'safety rating' given was not affected by whether or not students were aware of the **Leamington Street Marshals**.

39%

of students had experienced **difficulties getting home** after a night out

26%

of students had heard of the **Leamington Street Marshals**

EXPERIENCES OF LEAMINGTON SPA

What makes students feel unsafe?

STUDENT SAFETY CONCERNS

Being followed

Assault & rape

Homophobia

Lack of street lighting

Street harassment

Drugs

Racism

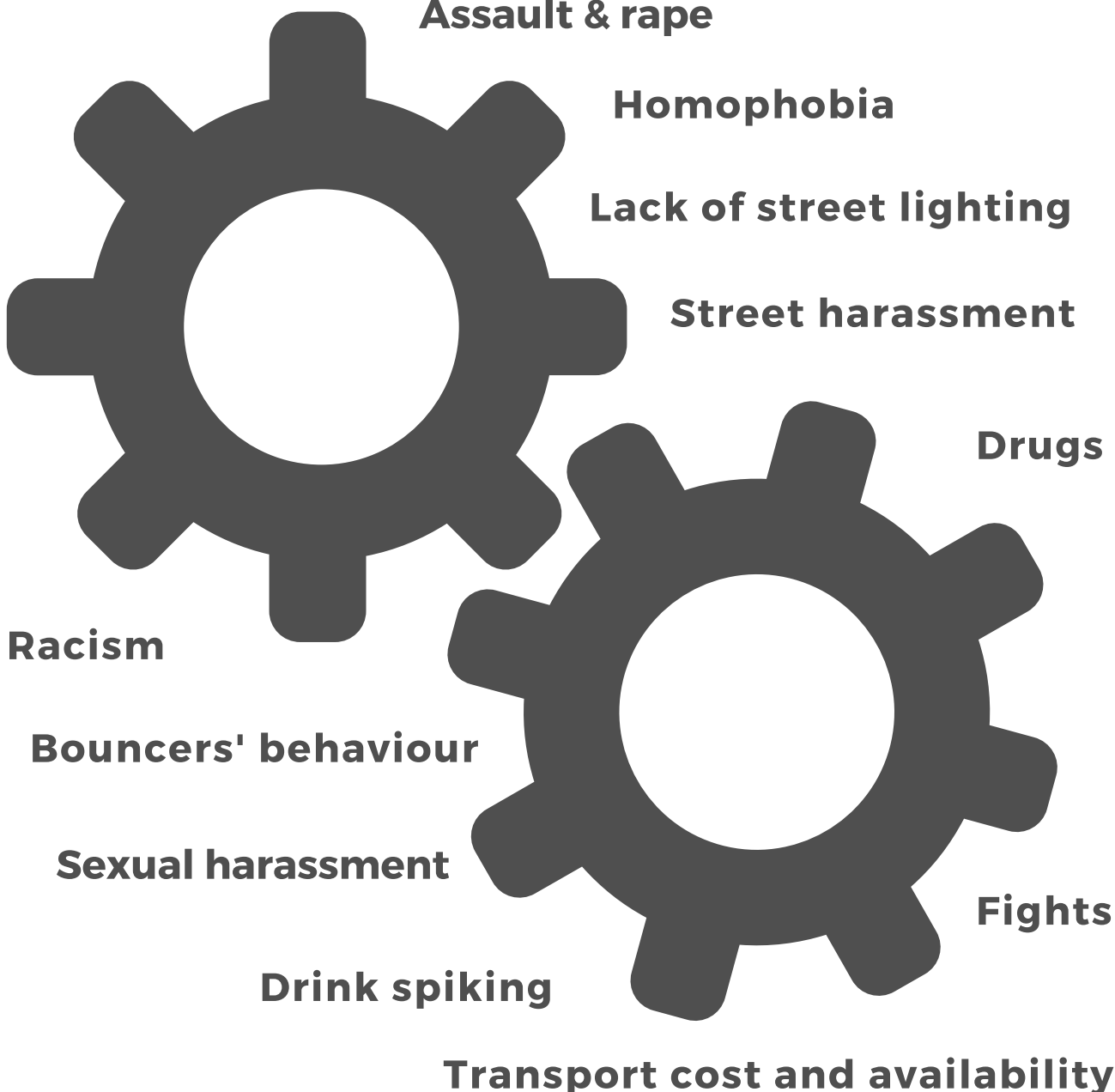
Bouncers' behaviour

Sexual harassment

Drink spiking

Fights

Transport cost and availability



EXPERIENCES OF LEAMINGTON SPA

A SPOTLIGHT ON...

HARASSMENT

STREET HARASSMENT

Students (primarily women) detailed their regular experiences of cat-calling, wolf-whistling and being honked at. These experiences were often coupled with being followed in the street.

"catcalling, cars stopping and turning around"

"Men catcalling, honking, leaving their cars to follow me"

"Catcalling in the street. Men stop and staring."

BEING FOLLOWED

Students frequently recounted being followed in the streets, which often culminated in experiences of verbal, physical or sexual assault.

"Being followed home, shouted at, leered at, groped and semi-assaulted (physically) by a [nightclub] bouncer"

"We were followed home once after a night out by a drunk man who kept heckling us"

"Had people follow me and my friends and yell slurs."

"I was followed by a man down Radford Road, ended up going into a takeaway to get away from him. He followed and became verbally abusive"

EXPERIENCES OF LEAMINGTON SPA

A SPOTLIGHT ON...

HARASSMENT

BEHAVIOUR OF DOOR STAFF

An overwhelming number of students had experienced or witnessed inappropriate and aggressive behaviour from door staff, including physical assault and being followed.

"The bouncers are sometimes extremely aggressive"

"after seeing a video of a head bouncer filming a drunk student and putting it on Facebook, I have felt very unsafe"

"I genuinely fear that I'm gonna get smacked about by a [nightclub] bouncer every time I go."

"a bouncer and his friend at [nightclub] followed us down the street as we left"

"followed home, shouted at, leered at, groped and semi-assaulted (physically) by a [nightclub] bouncer"

"Bouncers need to not be protected for assaulting customers"

Door staff were also seen to be preventing those being harassed from accessing support, or penalising victims being harassed rather than the perpetrators.

"bouncers who don't help you when you are in desperate need of help"

"Bouncers ... kick you out for standing up for yourself when you're on your own being harassed by a group of guys."

EXPERIENCES OF LEAMINGTON SPA

A SPOTLIGHT ON...

HARASSMENT

RACISM

Students of colour described being subject to racist language and behaviour, including being denied entry to nightclubs for being a person of colour.

"I think that the bouncers at [nightclub] are racist and believe I am one of many who has experienced racial prejudice at the nightclub"

"Racist language at friends who I was with"

HOMOPHOBIA

LGBTUA+ students described being subject to homophobic slurs and harassment, both on the street and inside venues, particularly when making out with a same-sex partner.

"Followed home by people calling me a faggot."

"Harassed while getting off with someone of the same gender"

"Men grabbing my butt without permission... when I make out with a woman."

"Being a visible queer trans person attracts a lot of unwanted attention."

EXPERIENCES OF LEAMINGTON SPA

A SPOTLIGHT ON...

HARASSMENT

GROPING & SEXUAL HARASSMENT

For many students being groped or subject to sexual harassment within nightclubs (and on the street) was a nightly occurrence.

"boys deliberately walking past in the club too close to you and touching up your arse/boobs"

"men touching us even after we have visibly denied them and told them to stop"

"many males think it's okay to grab my arse, this often makes me uncomfortable and feel quite violated."

"I have had men come out of nowhere and push themselves up behind me and an experience of men putting their hands under my skirt."

A significant number of students also detailed incidents of physical violence resulting from calling out sexual harassment.

"Had a half-full beer can thrown at my face for confronting a guy after he groped me."

"I've been grabbed repeatedly, had men try to grind on me, had a glass thrown at me for rejecting a man's advances and been slammed against a wall"

EXPERIENCES OF LEAMINGTON SPA

A SPOTLIGHT ON...

HARASSMENT

ASSAULT & RAPE

Students disclosed incidents of serious physical and sexual assault which had taken place on nights out.

"Two men as I walked past, one behind and one in front, as I walked past they grabbed my chest and my rear and wouldn't let me go."

"A guy approached me and started dancing with me; I told him that I was not interested... yet he proceeded to kiss me. I told him to get off me, but he told me that it was fine... The guy told me that I was going home with him and I told him that I'd be fine getting back by myself, yet he forced me back to his... The next thing that I can remember was waking up in his bed... with him pulling my clothes off and [performing a sex act on me]. I screamed and asked him what he was doing and he said that nobody will ever find out."

Often, students had only escaped an attacker due to the actions of their friends. (None spoke of venue staff support.)

"many times my male friends have had to physically drag guys off"

"I was continuously groped by a group of boys in [nightclub] and [nightclub], to the point that my male friends had to stand around me to stop it - I don't feel as safe if I am only with female friends"

"a man grabbed me as I got off the bus coming back from [nightclub] and tried to take me away with him. Luckily, my flat mates were with me and managed to pull me away from him (although this took some force)"

EXPERIENCES OF LEAMINGTON SPA

A SPOTLIGHT ON...

TRAVELLING HOME

BUSES

Students were often left stranded when they missed the last bus, or when buses failed to stop for them. Students felt that the bus service should extend further into the night.

"Buses stop too early for the shutting of the club and then surges on taxi and Uber prices means it's very expensive getting back to campus"

"the last bus can fail to run or be too busy"

"Buses that have never come even though they were supposed to"

TAXIS

Students stated that taxi drivers often refused to take them home after a night out. Leamington-based students suggested that taxis were waiting for higher fares from Coventry-based students. Students also reported being charged extremely high fares or being taken on long routes home.

"charge extortionate fares because they know there's no other alternative"

"Ubers and taxis aren't readily available on nights out, and if they are then they are substantially overpriced"

"Taxis refusing to take me home because they're waiting for the campus/Coventry students with higher fares"

EXPERIENCES OF LEAMINGTON SPA

A SPOTLIGHT ON...

TRAVELLING HOME

STREETLIGHTING

Students reported having to walk through poorly lit and unlit streets to reach their homes, sometimes whilst being followed. Some resort to paying for a taxi that will take them a short distance (albeit struggling to find one willing to take them on such a short journey).

"some areas of Leamington turn off their streetlights after midnight - walks home feel unsafe when unlit"

"I don't feel there are enough street lights etc in South Leamington for the vast amount of students that have to walk back to their homes in essentially pitch black darkness."

"My road is really badly lit up so it's quite scary walking back if I'm on my own"

"The street lights turn off so have to walk back in the dark, and my phone is usually dead"

The full set of text responses submitted to the survey is available upon request.

Please email campaigns@warwicksu.com

RECOMMENDATIONS

VENUES

ZERO TOLERANCE TO HARASSMENT

Venues should make a visible zero tolerance to harassment pledge, and take a zero tolerance stance against perpetrators (which includes believing those reporting harassment).

ASK FOR ANGELA SCHEME

Venues should implement an 'Ask for Angela' scheme, as used within Warwick SU venues, to allow customers to report an unsafe situation safely and discreetly.

STAFF TRAINING

Implement more rigorous staff training, including content on appropriate staff conduct, recognising signs of harassment & drink spiking, how to intervene in unsafe situations, and disclosure referral.

STAFF ACCOUNTABILITY

Improve staff accountability by reviewing staff complaints processes with student stakeholders, and commit to fully investigating all complaints against members of venue staff.

SERVING DRINKS

Venues should comply with their legal requirement not to serve alcoholic drinks to those who are too drunk, high or otherwise unfit to buy alcohol.

RECOMMENDATIONS

LOCAL SERVICES

SECURITY & SUPPORT PRESENCE

Consult with students and other stakeholders to improve targeting of security and support services, both on the streets and within venues.

REDUCE PART-NIGHT LIGHTING

Work with students to identify areas of Leamington in which part-night lighting provides a risk to residents' & visitors' welfare, and institute all-night lighting in these areas.

VENUE LICENSING CRITERIA

Embed conditions in venue licensing which protect customers from harassment & sexual violence. This includes minimum criteria for CCTV within venues, and recommendations from the 'Venues' section above.

LOCAL SAFE ZONE SCHEME

Implement a safe zone scheme which employs local services & businesses as safe points to seek shelter and report unsafe situations.

CCTV NETWORK

Improve the quality, coverage and monitoring capacity of the Leamington CCTV network, with the aim of proactively identifying arising incidents and providing evidence against perpetrators of harassment & violence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

STREET MARSHALS

REDUCTION OF ALCOHOL CONFISCATION

Greatly reduce the incidence of alcohol confiscation from students in favour of focusing on the recommendations below.

FOCUS ON STUDENT WELFARE

Focus Street Marshal resources on tackling issues such as street harassment, and providing support for students facing the knock-on impact of harassment in venues.

KNOWN POINT OF CONTACT

Station a marshal(s) at a known fixed location which can be advertised to students, as a safe point of contact for concerns on nights out.

IMPROVED PLACEMENT

Work with students to better identify areas of concern and trends in offending behaviour towards students, and use this information to deploy marshals more effectively.

IMPROVED TRAINING

Implement more rigorous training for marshals, including content on appropriate conduct, recognising signs of harassment & drink spiking, how to intervene in unsafe situations, and disclosure referral.

RECOMMENDATIONS

TRANSPORT

SAFE TAXI SCHEME

Implement a 'safe taxi scheme' which enables students to take a licensed taxi home despite not having sufficient funds available on the night.

CAMPUS TAXI DROP-OFF

Create a taxi drop-off point on the Warwickshire side of campus, so taxis must use the meter from Leamington, avoiding increased fares for students travelling home from nights out.

EXTENDED BUS TIMETABLE

Extend the student bus timetables so that the services continue further into the night, potentially subsidised by venues, allowing students to return home by bus after a night out.

RELIABILITY OF BUS SERVICE

Improve the reliability and capacity of the late night bus service, reducing the number of students left stranded in Leamington when the last buses fail to appear or drive by full.

CAMPUS SHUTTLE

Consider a campus shuttle service from Leamington as an alternative option for students returning home after a night out.

RECOMMENDATIONS

EDUCATION

RESPECT & WELLBEING EDUCATION

Embed respect & wellbeing education within the curricula for all University of Warwick students, and encourage Coventry University to do the same.

CLUB & SOCIETY TRAINING

Improve training & resources for clubs & societies, including content on appropriate conduct, recognising signs of harassment & drink spiking, how to intervene in unsafe situations, and disclosure referral.

ACTIVE BYSTANDERS

Provide students & staff with the skills and confidence to be active bystanders, making safe interventions in problematic situations whether they be on campus or in the local community.

CONSENT CAMPAIGN

Push forward with the #WeGetConsent campaign, supporting students to tackle harassment and sexual violence, and creating a culture of consent.

DISCLOSURE REFERRAL

Train key stakeholders, including university staff and students, in responding to disclosures, referring to other services, and supporting survivors of sexual violence.

Follow and contribute to the action plan at
www.warwicksu.com/GOSS



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