

Rhwydwaith
CYMUNEDAU MWY DIOGEL CYMRU

WALES SAFER COMMUNITIES
Network

Local Activity & Issues Update

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Introduction

The Local Authority Community Safety Leads were contacted for any updates on what was happening with them locally.



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“Whilst locally we have had a very small number of cases recently, the community tensions around this are quite high, so it is important we help people to feel safer and be safer.”



What is happening across Wales



– BRIFF 7 MUNUD
Spiking
7 MINUTE BRIEFING

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Background

- Almost 200 drink spiking incidents have been reported to UK police forces over the last two months
- In addition, there have been 24 reports of some form of injection being used to incapacitate the victim the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) said
- A total of 198 confirmed reports of drink spiking were recorded in September and October across various parts of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, the NPCC said

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What is Spiking?

- There have been multiple reports of "needle spiking" — which involves an injection being administered to someone without their knowledge or consent, usually in a nightclub or bar setting — as opposed to the more commonly known method of contaminating alcoholic drinks.
- To spike a drink means to put alcohol or drugs into someone's drink without their knowledge or permission. Drink spiking can occur anywhere drinks are served (such as at nightclubs, parties, pubs, restaurants and private homes).
- Drink spiking can be linked to crimes such as sexual assault and robbery. In these situations, the offender may spike someone's drink to lower their defences and make it easier to commit a crime against them. Estimates suggest that one third of drink spiking incidents are associated with sexual attack.
- Drink spiking is illegal, whatever the intent. This means that slipping alcohol or drugs into a friend's drink as a prank is against the law— even if the drink is not consumed or the person is not harmed. People who spike drinks can be fined or jailed.

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What is drink spiking?

- Drink spiking is a deliberate act. Public perception is that it is limited to slipping drugs into an alcoholic drink, however, drink spiking can include:
 - Putting alcohol into a non-alcoholic drink (such as water, soft drink, non-alcoholic punch or fruit juice).
 - Adding extra alcohol to an alcoholic drink.
 - Slipping prescription or illegal drugs (such as benzodiazepines, amphetamines or GHB – also called liquid ecstasy) into an alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink.

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Who is at risk of drink spiking?

- Women are more likely to have their drinks spiked than men.
- Studies show that most people are not aware of the dangers of drink spiking. For example:
 - Many people do not think they are at risk of drink spiking, and do not consider it a common occurrence.
 - Drinks can be spiked by people you know or have just met. Such as, you may not consider an unknown person to be a stranger after talking to them for a while – then more likely to accept a drink from them.

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Tips to prevent drink spiking

- Party safely and socialise with trusted friends. Plan how you will watch out for each other while you are out.
- Buy your own drinks.
- If you are at a venue that serves drinks, watch the bartender prepare your drink.
- Don't accept drinks from strangers.
- If you accept the offer of a drink from a stranger, accompany them to the bar and take the drink from the bartender yourself.
- Be wary if a stranger buys you a drink and it's not the type of drink you requested.
- Don't take your eyes off your drink. If you need to leave (to go to the toilet or dance, for example), ask a trusted friend to keep watch.
- Buy drinks that come in bottles with screw-top lids. Carry the bottle in your bag when you go to the toilet or have a dance.
- Don't consume your drink if you think it may have been spiked. Discuss your concerns with the manager or host.

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Symptoms of drink spiking

- You may not realise your drink has been spiked by smelling it or tasting it. The substances used to spike drinks are often colourless and odourless.
- Symptoms of drink spiking depend on many factors such as:
 - the substance used
 - what your drink has been mixed with
 - the dose
 - your size and weight
 - how much alcohol you have already consumed.
- Drink spiking symptoms may include:
 - feeling drunk, woozy or drowsy
 - feeling "out of it" or drunker than expected
 - mental confusion
 - speech difficulties (such as slurring)
 - memory loss
 - loss of inhibitions
 - nausea and vomiting
 - breathing problems

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What to do if you suspect drink spiking

- There are a few things you can do if you suspect you or someone else has had their drink spiked:
 - Alert a trusted person - such as a friend, venue staff or host what is happening.
 - Go to a safe place – have a trusted person with you.
 - Keep a close eye on anyone who has had their drink spiked.
 - Call an ambulance if their condition deteriorates in any way (for example, if they lose consciousness).
 - Contact police as soon as possible after a suspected incident of drink spiking

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Colegau Cymru

Safeguarding Group: Looking at Spiking as part of the work being Chaired by the Chief Executive of Coleg Cambria.





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Cardiff and Vale UHB

Co-ordination of public messaging on drink/needle spiking involving multiple partners and one communication plan.





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Cardiff Community Safety

Night Time Economy Group: identifying approaches to the issue.





Neath Port Talbot

- StopTopps – to obtain 26,000 drink covers
- Spiking awareness posters to licensed premises
- Police pop up engagements 9pm-1am
- NPT Safe Spaces – for people feeling vulnerable, threatened or intimidated.
- Ask for Angela



Swansea

- Weekly partnership sessions at student resident complexes.
- Attendance at Student Union events
- Swansea Landlords Forum
- Spike awareness posters
- Drink spiking testing packs
- Urine testing kits available at the Help Point (Wed, Fri & Sat)
- Social media film
- Police check venue CCTV and interview staff when drink spiking has been reported



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SPIKED?

If you think your drink has been spiked, alert bar staff immediately and we will have your drink tested

#SPIKEAWARE



DIDD WEDI'I SBEICIO?

Os ydych chi'n meddwl bod eich diod wedi cael ei sbeicio, dywedwch wrth staff y bar yn syth ac fe drefnwn i'ch diod gael ei phrofi

#SPIKEAWARE





Examples from
elsewhere



Following provided in conversation:

- Bristol Nights Drink Spiking Campaign
https://www.bristolnights.co.uk/drinks_piking
- Shrewsbury What to do poster
<https://shrewsburybid.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2.png>





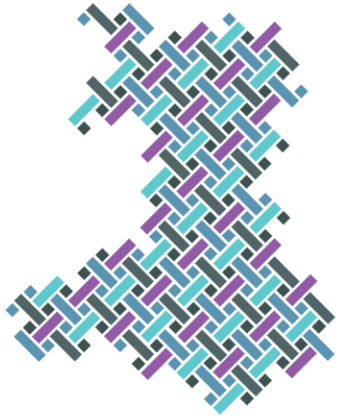
**IF YOU MAKE THE DECISION TO SPIKE
SOMEONE WITH DRUGS OR ALCOHOL
YOU COULD SPEND UP TO
10 YEARS IN PRISON**

Staff have been trained to spot suspicious behavior in this venue, if there is an incident they will gather evidence to ensure a conviction.

This venue also has full CCTV coverage, recordings of which will be handed to the police when requested.

LET'S KEEP SHREWSBURY A SAFE NIGHT OUT





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Diolch yn fawr / Thank you
Cysylltwch â ni / Please get in touch

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