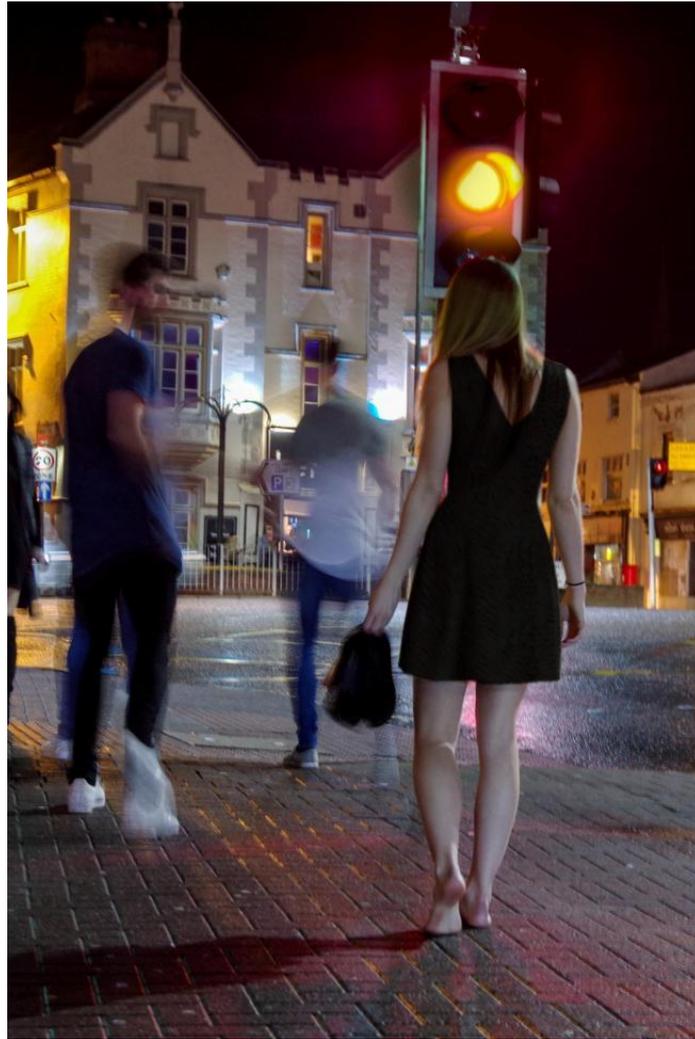


'Team effort' is making Hereford's night time economy safer



A team effort is making Hereford a much safer place to be on a night out according to the Street Pastors.

IN a month when a Birmingham nightclub was criticised by a judge for failing to care for a young girl who was brutally assaulted, Hereford door staff are being recognised for their role in keeping people safe in the city's night time economy.

Door staff and venue managers gave up an evening to attend a special briefing hosted by Hereford Baptist Church, where police, street pastors and Vennture's specialist medical training company X-Calibre shared key facts and things to look out for.

Inspector Nick Semper, with West Mercia Police, said: "Over the last three years working with door staff and venue managers, we have made Hereford one of the safest night time economies in the West Midlands. This will make it even better."

Door staff were briefed on the findings of Vennture's Emelia's Place initiative, where young people are taken by the city's street pastors to recover safely.

And according to data released by the team, there has been a dramatic reduction in alcohol-related incidents.

Dan Guerche, Chairman of Hereford Against Night Time Disorder (HAND), said: "It was great that the Baptist Church opened its doors, laid on a great barbecue and allowed us to come together and talk about what we can do to make things even safer.

"Door staff are often first on scene – it is important people recognise the vital role they play in keeping people safe."

And the team is also advising people to be aware that, though someone may appear drunk, they may be suffering from something very different. Micha Reynolds, who is responsible for Vennture's Lean-on-Me programme said: "Someone may appear intoxicated but in 50% of people, our thorough assessments reveal underlying medical conditions – some life threatening.

"Sticking them in a taxi is not always the best. It's important to make sure people are safe to go home. The joint working of door staff, Street Pastors and our Lean-on-Me team ensures people are assessed fully, receive proper treatment and recover safely."

Mr Guerche said he is keen to develop the team approach that is proven to improve the city through his role in Hereford Business Improvement District.

"Everyone playing their part and taking responsibility makes a big difference," he said.

"We are beginning to develop a similar Team Hereford approach in the daytime."