



## PRESS RELEASE

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### LAUNCH OF 'SPIKED' AT THE CABARET VOLTAIRE

Action on Alcohol and Drugs in Edinburgh in partnership with Lothian and Borders Police and Fast Forward, launched 'Spiked' a short film warning young people of the dangers of spiked drinks, at The Cabaret Voltaire today.

The film depicts a young girl on a night out with her friends, and shows the ease with which her drink could be spiked at various stages throughout the night.

The film will be distributed to schools and youth work agencies and is accompanied by a toolkit for practitioners working with young people aged 16-24. The toolkit contains information on safe drinking, safe-guarding against drink spiking and explores relationships between drink, drugs and sex.

Speaking at the launch, Tom Wood, Chair of Action on Alcohol and Drugs said, "This film is not meant to alarm young people, but we do want to encourage them to think carefully about their safety when they are on a night out. What we are saying is 'Watch your drink at all times, don't drink so much that you put yourself in danger and keep an eye on your friends and their drinks'".

Malcolm Dickson, Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police said "Spiking drinks is not just about drugs. Drinks can just as easily be spiked with alcohol. We do have a number of incidents where young people have, by their own admission, been intoxicated with alcohol and then found it difficult to remember what they did in the following hours. I would emphasise that the spiking of drinks is not a growing problem. The safest thing young people can do when on a night out is to stick with their friends and never go off with someone they have only just met. Friends need to stop this happening if they see it".

Mo from Fast Forward, one of their peer educators, spoke at the launch. Mo said, "This film shows how easily your judgement is affected after having a few drinks, and how serious the consequences of this can be. It makes you think twice about leaving your drink unattended or accepting a drink from somebody you don't know. I think it's going to have a really positive impact on young people".

Mark Martin, DJ from Forth One, will be hosting the launch, which starts at 1030, Cabaret Voltaire, 36 Blair Street .

/Ends

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## Notes for Editors

1. The 4-minute film will be screened at the event.
2. There will be an opportunity to interview Mo at the launch event about the impact the film has had on her, and also the director of the film, Catherine Steel.
3. Spiked has been funded by Action on Alcohol and Drugs in Edinburgh in partnership with Fast Forwards Positive Lifestyle Ltd and Lothian and Borders Police. Spiked is a video resource for workers working with young people 16-24 years old. The resource aims to increase confidence in delivering information and education around the issues of drink spiking and can be used in various settings with male, female and mixed gender group. A toolkit accompanies the video which includes useful exercises and a sample of photocopyable activities addressing issues such as safe drinking, safeguarding against drink spiking and relationships between drink, drugs and sex.
4. Action on Alcohol and Drugs in Edinburgh is a partnership of the city's key agencies – including The City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian and Lothian and Borders Police, aiming to make drug and alcohol services in Edinburgh as seamless and effective as possible. For more information, go to: [www.ActionAlcoholDrugsEdinburgh.org](http://www.ActionAlcoholDrugsEdinburgh.org)
5. Cabaret Voltaire is at 36 Blair Street.