

## CITY CENTRE FACILITY OPENS FOR THIRD YEAR

# Festive safe hut to help revellers

A 'SAFE Hut' which provides assistance to late night revellers has been opened.

The Festive Safe Hut, run by Milton Keynes City Centre Management's After8 Group and SaferMK, is running for the third year.

Located outside of the Xscape building, it has been open from Thursday, December 1. The Safe Hut will be open from 11pm until 5am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

It is a voluntary initiative with St John Ambulance providing late night revellers with practical assistance during the lead up to Christmas and the New Year.

Volunteers will be helping to manage minor issues, supporting and advising intoxicated people, which has successfully been proven to significantly relieve pressure on the emergency services.

Last year, more than 300 people visited the Safe Hut for all manner of queries and incidents.

Minor issues, supporting and advising intoxicated people, were handled by the team and significantly relieved pressure on emergency services.

St John Ambulance saw over 135 people, 79 of those treated on site subsequently, averting



**IN SAFE HANDS:** Members of St John Ambulance will be offering help and advice

ambulance call outs. Fourteen of those were taken to Milton Keynes Hospital due to the seriousness of injury.

The 'Pee Pod', which was introduced during the World Cup and used by over 1,288 revellers last year also returned on December 1 to give revellers a convenient and safe place to urinate. City Centre manager, Kay Greenhalgh, said: "This is the third year we have come together to give

people celebrating Christmas additional help and support and to make sure they enjoy every part of their night out.

This is purely a voluntary initiative by key businesses in Milton Keynes city centre, which clearly demonstrates our united approach to keeping the city centre a safe and happy environment."

Volunteers will also be handing out condoms, flip flops and water.

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