

# Licensing and Appeals Committee

10 June 2025

Part 1 - Public

Delegated



Cabinet Member	Cllr Des Keers, Community Services
Responsible Officer	Adrian Stanfield, Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive
Report Author	Anthony Garnett, Head of Service for Licensing, Community Services and Customer Services

## SPIKING AWARENESS – “ASK FOR ANGELA”

### 1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Peoples’ safety in the nighttime economy is continually being highlighted in the press and social media. Following a request to discuss this issue at the Licensing and Appeals Committee by Cllr Anna Cope, a Member for Cage Green and Angel Ward, and in conjunction with Cllr Brown, Chair of the Licensing and Appeals Committee, and Cllr Keers, Cabinet Member for Community Services, this paper has been written to aid with a discussion on this very important safeguarding issue.
- 1.2 In this paper the Licensing Team have documented details of the “Ask for Angela” initiative and has proposed some recommendations for consideration by Members.

### 2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.
- 2.2 Licensing Services ensure that all licensable activities taking place within the borough are granted the appropriate permissions under the relevant legislation.

### 3 Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that:

- (1) that the draft text, shown at **Annex 1**, be approved to be included in the Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 – 2030
- (2) the Poster shown at **Annex 2** be distributed to holders of premises licences and club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2023.

## 4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is the Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003. The Licensing Authority is responsible for granting premises licences, club premises certificates, temporary events notices and personal licences within the Authority's area in respect of the sale and/or supply of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and late-night refreshment.
- 4.2 The 2003 Act requires the Licensing Authority to carry out its various licensing functions so as to promote the following four licensing objectives:
- the prevention of crime and disorder.
  - promotion of public safety.
  - the prevention of public nuisance.
  - the protection of children from harm.

### **Extract from the 2024 Ask for Angela workbook**

- 4.3 **Ask For Angela** is the name of a campaign started in 2016 that is used by bars and other venues to keep people safe from vulnerable situations by using a codeword to identify when they are in an uncomfortable situation, feeling unsafe, vulnerable or threatened. When this program is implemented within a premises, a person who needs assistance can ask for Angela, a fictitious member of the staff. This gives staff the prompt to help the person into a safer position.
- 4.4 The program started in Lincolnshire by Inspector Hayley Crawford. "Ask For Angela" is named in remembrance of Angela Crompton, a woman who was abused and killed by her husband in 2012 when an argument about redecorating a house got out of control. Since its launch in 2016, it has been adapted around the UK to help promote safety and wellbeing for anyone who finds themselves vulnerable.
- 4.5 This national initiative used in bars, clubs, and other licensed venues is to help anyone who feels unsafe or vulnerable to seek discreet assistance. By asking for "Angela" individuals signal to staff they need help, and trained personnel will assist them. This could involve reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or contacting security or the police.
- 4.6 It is proposed that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council require all Licensees should train all staff on the Ask for Angela scheme, ensuring they know what action to take if a customer asks for Angela, being discrete professional in considering what action should be taken when they are alerted to the fact that a person feels unsafe or threatened.

## 5 Proposal

5.1 The proposed text is shown in **Annex 1** and is being recommended to be included in the Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 – 2030.

### 5.2 Safety measures

- Premises should train staff about the “Ask Angela Scheme” and drug awareness, including the effects of Psychoactive substances where the chemicals affect brain function.
- Premises staff should encourage customers to ensure their drinks are not left unattended
- Use of publicity material to ensure customers remain vigilant (posters)
- The Council expects that when a trained member of staff hears the code phrase they should understand that the person needs support and will be able to respond in an appropriate, **discreet way**. This could be offering them an alternative way out of the venue, calling them a taxi or in a more serious situation, altering venue security and/or the Police.

## 6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

6.1 The Licensing Income budget for 2025 – 2026 is £374,850

## 7 Risk Assessment

7.1 Should parts of the industry believe the authority’s ‘statement of licensing policy’ is not sound it would be open to them to undertake judicial review proceedings.

## 8 Legal Implications

8.1 The Statement of Licensing Policy has been prepared in accordance with Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 and having regard to the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act (as revised).

## 9 Consultation and Communications

9.1 All licensed premises will be made aware of the updated Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 – 2030 and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council’s requirements in respect to Ask Angela scheme.

## 10 Implementation

10.1 Dates for sending information out to all premises will be in July 2025.

## 11 Cross Cutting Issues

11.1 Following corporate guidelines for all of the charges included in this report has ensured a standard approach across different services

## 12 Climate Change and Biodiversity

12.1 None identified

## 13 Equalities and Diversity

13.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

## 14 Other If Relevant

14.1 None

Background Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask for Angela - <a href="#">Home - Ask For Angela</a></li> <li>• 2024 Retail AFA Workbook <a href="#">Downloadable templates - Ask For Angela</a></li> </ul>
Annexes	<p>Annex 1 – Proposed text for inclusion in Tonbridge and Malling Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 – 2030.</p> <p>Annex 2 – Poster for Ask for Angela</p>