

Optional Action Point 11:

Develop and implement a Student Community Support system.

1. Purpose

The objective of this toolkit is to:

- Briefly describe the purpose of ‘Student Community Support’.
- Outline the process associated with creating your own Student Community Support systems.

2. Scope

Student Community Support is a student led safety initiative that operates during high intensity entertainment weeks/events (e.g. Raise & Give Week, Freshers’ Week, etc.), whereby students walk assigned routes in a local area ensuring inebriated students make it home safely and the area is not severely littered. While this action point has the potential to be expensive, it ensures the safety of students and cleanliness of the areas surrounding your campus. In some colleges/universities/institutes of technology, Student Community Support is successful in improving relations with residents while also protecting vulnerable students on their way home.

3. Procedure

1. Ideally this initiative should be run in conjunction with the college/university/institute of technology and An Garda Síochána. Therefore, it is best to start by contacting a member of An Garda Síochána.
2. The college/university/institute of technology needs to recruit students to work as Student Community Support workers. It is breach of contract for these students to consume alcohol while on duty.
3. The institution must provide training for these Student Community Support workers at the start of each semester due to the transient nature of members.
4. The role of these students is not to act as reporters but deal with safety issues during high intensity weeks and events.
5. Student Community Support system protocols to include;
 - Patrolling and walking the streets.
 - Hydration and food stations/tents (The Student Community Support team come to the event and create an alcohol-free chill-out-zone in the heart of the party action. The team provides water and food to ensure the rehydration of students).
 - Safety room where students are taken if intoxicated and by themselves.
6. For more information on the initiative please refer to University College Cork Students’ Union;
<http://www.collegeroad.ie/union/student-patrol>