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## West Suffolk SOS Bus

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The West Suffolk SOS Bus offers support to people who are out and about in Newmarket during the evening at weekends.

It operates on the Town's High Street outside the Post Office from 9pm to 3.00am on Saturdays.

It is there to help people experiencing:

- Emotional distress
- Alcohol and substance misuse
- Social isolation
- Lack of immediate finance
- Health concerns
- Relationship breakdowns

The SOS Bus team can offer a variety of support and information, such as helping vulnerable young people organise a safe return home, or providing refreshment and a safe place to sit for anyone who is dehydrated. The bus has a fully equipped medical area on board, with first aid provided and managed by St Johns Ambulance personnel.

During weekdays the bus acts as a mobile community resource. West Suffolk groups, organisations and statutory agencies can hire the bus to offer services such as youth outreach work, health care awareness and training, safety and housing information, and much more.

"The grant from the Safer Suffolk Foundation has helped with the fitting and setting up of the SOS bus, which aims to provide a safe and welcoming environment to young people who need help. This should improve community safety for vulnerable young people," said Sue McAllister, Project Manager.

To find out more about the West Suffolk SOS Bus, visit the website at <http://www.westsuffolksosbus.org/>

**Picture Caption (left to right): Lindsey Morgan (PCSO), Sue McAllister, Project Manager for the SOS bus and Mark Shipton (SNT Sgt) outside the SOS bus on launch day.**

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