

Get Home Safe

 SURREY STUDENTS' UNION

The *Get Home Safe* scheme is a voluntary initiative being trialled by Surrey Students' Union with sports clubs and societies to help encourage safe and supported travel home for students.

The scheme was initiated to support the safety of students travelling home alone, particularly in areas without sufficient street lighting or with long journeys.

By promoting the scheme, students can easily identify clubs and societies that are committed to helping them return home safely and can request support without any fear of embarrassment or hindrance.

The aim of participating clubs and societies in the *Get Home Safe* scheme is to provide support to students who request it in a manner that works for both the club or society and the student/s.

There is no requirement for clubs and societies to offer specific means of support or mandate how all members travel. The support offered can take various forms, and the primary concern is to ensure that students feel safe without endangering any other students.

The scheme is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of individual clubs and societies, and their members.

If your club or society agrees to participate in the scheme, you will be able to brand the society as a ***Get Home Safe*** club/society and add this to your own marketing and information online and at events like Freshers' Fair.

It is important to note the scheme's aim is to offer practical solutions and support for students concerned with travel safety; however, participating clubs and societies are not always responsible for every incident that may occur during a student's travel.

This scheme is best led by the Wellbeing Champions within your club or society.

How to get involved:

Forming walking groups of students heading in similar directions

Designating a member of the society/club as an available emergency contact/someone to confirm a student has made it safely to their location

Offering lifts

Agreeing for groups to take the same public transport to/from sessions

Using apps such as Walk Safe+, which can help members plan their route home and stay connected with others during their journey.

The app is available for both iOS and Android devices



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Suggestions

A non-exhaustive list of suggestions for how to implement different ways of helping your members **Get Home Safe** including some best practice guidance.

Please remember that while we are encouraging you to support your members in feeling confident and safe in their travels; the safety and wellbeing of your members travelling is not the responsibility of your club / society and if you wish to discuss ideas further do contact Craig in the Union: craig.aldridge@surrey.ac.uk

*This project will be a fantastic opportunity for your **Wellbeing Champions** to take the lead on and be the first point of contact to your members.*

Forming walking / travelling groups of students heading in similar directions

It can just be linking up people already walking / travelling in the same directions to travel together. If starting a more organised walking / travelling group, it is good to ensure the following:

- You know who is due to be in the group that session and don't leave without them.
- That the person/s heading it up are known within the society and to those travelling with them.
- That those who will head it up are themselves travelling in the same general direction as the group or has the means and comfort to get themselves to their destination safely.
- Ensuring all members travelling together know they can leave at any point and are not obliged to reveal their exact home location – people do not need to be walked to their door unless requested (please find a suitable way to discuss where they wish to be taken to, and where you will depart to say goodbye).
- Establish a clear communication plan among group members in case of an emergency or if someone gets separated from the group.
- Encourage members to have bright or reflective clothing and/or carry a torch if it's an evening session.
- Plan the route in advance of the session to ensure it is safe and accessible to all members and that the route has proper lighting.

Agreeing for groups to take the same public transport to/from sessions

The same guidance as for the above walking / travelling groups but to also ensure that any member's travel fare is their own responsibility.



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Designating a member of the society/club as an available emergency contact/ someone to confirm a student has made it safely to their location

This person does not need to be the same person every session/week.

Decide and have the nature of support clearly defined to all:

- It can just be someone who is available to call or text if there is an issue or feeling of lack of safety.
- It could be someone who has been given permission to do a check-up call if a member travelling back has not checked in by a certain time.
- Make sure there is no confusion in what the nature of support is and that it is understood that any communication in this respect does not automatically equate to permission to contact outside of this context.

Offering lifts

This is something ideally offered by a driver not having them pressured to do so by others. Any contributions for fuel are to be voluntary and not a condition of this support. Please ensure anyone offering to give lifts has a valid driving licence and that all regular road laws are to be followed.

Using the Walk Safe+ app

This can help members plan their route home and stay connected with others during their journey. The app is available for both iOS and Android devices. If using this app or any other location sharing app/technology, please ensure that consent has been explicitly given by members to have their location viewed and that it is known to all what member will be monitoring the app that week. It should be made clear to all involved that consent to be contacted in this scenario does not automatically equate to consent for contact in other contexts.

Your responsibilities

By participating in this scheme you are wholly responsible for the actions of yourself, and that no oneness can be placed on being part of a club and/or society collective. You must accept responsibility that contact to participants should remain within the parameters of this scheme, and should you contact a participant outside of this, it is with their explicit consent that you are able to do so. Anyone found in breach of these general conditions may be subject to a Union Disciplinary, as deemed appropriate within the Bylaws of Surrey Students' Union.

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For further information or to discuss ideas please contact
Surrey Students' Union Support Coordinator:
Craig Aldridge craig.aldridge@surrey.ac.uk



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