

## Safer Streets Funding

Milton Keynes Council and its partners in the Safer MK Partnership have secured almost £750k of national funding towards a multi-agency programme to make streets safer for women and girls.

Working alongside the Police and Crime Commissioner and Thames Valley Police, the Council has successfully secured the funding as part of a 'Safer Streets' bid. The project will see upgrades to popular pedestrian routes, with additional CCTV and lighting in and around underpasses.

The routes for the upgrades will run from Xscape through to The Theatre District and down to the central railway station, and cover parts of Campbell Park, Conniburrow, Bradwell, and Loughton.

As part of the project, provision at the MK Safe Hub in Xscape will be enhanced to help more women if they feel unsafe, and a campaign will be run that asks men to call out inexcusable behaviour among their peers to address unwanted sexual and violent behaviour. Training to spot the signs will be available for staff at local venues, bus and taxi drivers.

National crime figures for the 12-month period ending in September 2021 show that sexual offences recorded by the police were the highest on record, at 170,973 offences across the UK. This is a 12% increase from the same period in 2020.

"Everyone has the right to feel safe and for too long many women haven't. We hope these improved measures will make routes safer and give increased confidence to women who rightly want to feel comfortable on a night out or when they're walking home from work. My thanks go out to staff at the Council and its partners for putting together this successful bid."

- Cabinet Member for Public Realm, Cllr Lauren Townsend