

ALL WOMAN - *Health & Beauty*

The latest beauty product in Calderdale doesn't just make you look seductive. It could save your life.

The lip gloss that will help keep you safe

WHEN beauty therapist Louise Jones hits the pubs and clubs of Halifax on a night out, she has an unexpected weapon in her handbag to keep her safe... a lip gloss.

And she's not the only one. Thousands of women all over the country have become fans of the 2 Love My Lips gloss, because it comes with a date-rape drug testing kit.

Drink spiking is an escalating worldwide concern these days. According to a recent survey one in four women in the UK have had their drinks spiked and as many as 30 women a week are victims.

Experts believe this is only the tip of the iceberg, because hundreds more go unreported due to the stigma attached to date rape.

Thirty-year-old Louise of Bradshaw, Halifax, can believe these figures. She has worked in the beauty industry since she was 16, and says more and more of her friends and clients express concern about drink spiking and being sexually assaulted on a night out.

So when she heard about the new lip gloss, she instantly decided to stock it at her Therapy Skin Care salon in Rawson Street, Halifax. "I think it's a brilliant idea and so do other women judging by sales. I sold my first batch within weeks and have al-



Looking good: 2 Love My Lips gloss

ready put in another order. One client bought five for her daughter and four friends who were going abroad on holiday. A lot of women buy the lip gloss for younger family members and say anything that helps defend them from drink spikers is worth every penny.

The lip gloss is the brainchild of Liverpool business woman Tracy Whittaker who came to see Louise at her Halifax salon. Her aim is to bring safety and beauty to the finger tips of women of all ages.

Each gloss, which costs £10, contains a stay safe guide and simple pink taper that has been treated to detect the common street drugs

of GHB and ketamine, two widely available substances used in bars and clubs.

"If a drink tastes funny, or a woman is suspicious, she simply dabs the end of the taper into her drink and if it turns blue she should tell her friends immediately and get help from security and police," says Tracy.

The lip gloss, which plumps lips and comes in six shades, has proved a runaway success in beauty salons and on airlines. Tracy now plans a smaller and cheaper version for vending machines in bar and club toilets, along with refill packs of the kit.

Other cosmetic products are also planned by her company and all of them will come with the date rape testing kit. She hopes to sell the products in the USA, Australia and the Far East.

Angela Everson, joint chief executive of the Women's Centre in Silver Street, Halifax, said she welcomed any product that helps women to avoid becoming victims of drug rape.

"Anything that helps women to stay safe gets our support. Including a helpline number on the lip gloss literature might also be useful."

Anti-date rape drug campaigners the Rooftop Foundation has also applauded the lip gloss. The agency has received 1,200 calls to its hel-



Beauty therapist: Louise Jones

pline in the last two years. Tips for staying safe include:

- If you feel odd, nauseous, tipsy or wasted and you know that you cannot be drunk, it is possible your drink has been spiked with either drugs or alcohol.
- If so immediately go to a safe place.

- If you fear you've had sex under the influence of drugs taken unwillingly, and you wish the police to be involved - report it!
- Visit your doctor or an STD clinic, as you have no proof that the rapist used a condom.

- The Rooftop Foundation helpline - 0800 783 2980 is open 9am to 9pm. The Women's Centre, Halifax, also offers counselling. For more details ring Hx 386500 or visit www.womenscentre.org.uk



Product range: 2 Love My Lips gloss