

Card aims to combat date rape drug

by Dave Appleton

A CARD which detects if a date rape drug has been sneakily slipped into a drink will soon be available.

Norden-based computer expert, Chris Varnon, says his card will speedily detect if a drink has been spiked – a frightening trend on the rise.

Mr Varnon, aged 33, a former IT manager, first came across the technology in an American magazine. He now has an arrangement in the Greater Manchester area to buy the cards, which led him to setting up his own website to market them.

Mr Varnon, who works from his Caldershaw home, has already had talks with Greater Manchester Police's anti-drug team, which, he claims, has welcomed his initiative.

"Having set up the website, I am now in the process of contacting schools, colleges and

licensed venues to market the card," he added.

Mr Varnon said he was doing it as a business venture after losing his job.

Many of the illicit drugs slipped into unsuspecting clubgoers' drinks are colourless, odourless and tasteless, but leave victims vulnerable to date rape.

"It's a despicable crime, but it can be stopped by a simple test with the card," he said.

Each card – about the size of a credit card – incorporates two testing areas that react with a visible colour change when they come in contact with a drink spiked with either GHB (Gamma-Hydroxybutrate) or Ketamine, drugs which are commonly available on the black market.

Mr Varnon said: "The test takes only seconds to



FIGHTING crime ... Chris Varnon has set up a website to market a date rape detection card.

OB0733A04

perform and is easy as placing a couple of drops from the drink in question onto the active test spots, using a swizzle stick or even your finger.

"If the spots change to a darker colour, it signals the drink has been contaminated and the victim should inform the manager or contact the police."

His website is at www.drinkspikedetector.com