

Market Harborough Street Pastors Administrator's Report April 2010

Our first year in operation, beginning April 2009 has been an exciting and challenging one. Well before our first year on the streets we were busy recruiting volunteers, providing training and building up relationships within the community. Since we launched and started going out in April 2009 one of the main tasks of the management board has been to begin to create an infrastructure that can be sustained for the long term. The areas that we are still working on will be looked at later under plans for the future. We have achieved a great deal in a short space of time. To capture all of it in this report would result in a lengthy document, so what follows is a snapshot of our achievements.

Training

There is a comprehensive training programme that all Street Pastors complete that consists of 14 modules. The modules completed to date are:

- Roles and Responsibilities of Street Pastor parts 1&2
- Good News
- Understanding of Police Authority
- Listening and Counselling Skills
- Adult and Children's & Youth People Social Care
- Youth Services
- Drug Awareness
- Mentoring Skills
- Mental Health Awareness

We are very grateful to all our partner agencies who have given up their time to provide us with this training.

We have 18 Street Pastors who have completed the core training and who are working out on the street and we are delighted to have a further 6 people currently engaged in this initial training phase.

Out on the Streets

Of the 49 weeks to date that we could have been out serving on the street we have been out for 42 weeks. In those 42 weeks we have had a total of 690.5 volunteer hours to the community.

We record how many people we engage with and what help we have been able to provide. We have had 1369 contacts with people during those 42 weeks. Some of those conversations have been telling people who we are and what we do, some a general conversation about life, others have been in greater depth. Some examples of these deeper conversations are; a young woman sharing with us the impact that the suicides of two close friends had on her life. Or the young man who was going into alcohol detox because he had a partner and children who he wanted to be able to support better. In these encounters we offer our card to people, so that if they wish to talk to someone again they can. What we offer is a listening ear without judgement.

One of the biggest groups of people we have got to know and have built up a good relationship with is the many young people who use the town centre. They have been very pleased to see us and enjoy chatting with us. We hope to be able to further this over the coming year.

We also provide practical assistance to those in need. This can be giving water to those impaired by alcohol or drugs, helping people get into a taxi and get home safely, providing basic first aid, and calling for professional help for more serious cases. We have helped to calm down situations and reduce anti-social behaviour and the risk of assaults and injury.

We also collect up glasses and bottles left lying around on the street, in the last year we have removed 72 potential weapons off the streets of Market Harborough. We also report any broken glass, and street and park lighting that is out.

What we hope we have created is a presence in the town that makes people feel safe and able to go out and enjoy themselves.

Prayer Pastors

In addition to the team of Street Pastors, we also have a team of Prayer Pastors. These are volunteers who join us at our base and pray for us while we are out. We can also contact them throughout the night to make prayer requests

and let them know what is going on. We currently have a team of six. As with Street Pastors we are always looking for more people who would be willing to join the Prayer Pastor team.

Other highlights

In November 2009 the first National Street Pastors conference was held in London, with 3 members of the team attending. It was an important three days that created an opportunity to meet with other Street Pastors from across the country and share ideas and stories with as well as engage with some excellent speakers.

In January 2010 the first Coordinators training was held. This was an invaluable 2 days for myself and Philip as chair.

Impact

The impact that we have can be difficult to quantify. One measure could be that issues such as ASB have lowered and we could have been a contributing factor. Another is that we have fewer people asking who we are, so word has got round!

But when you are working with people, sometimes it's not the statistics that matter so much as the stories of the encounters. Here are few to conclude with.

- The 15 year old girl who was drunk and supported by Street Pastors. The care she received prompted her boyfriend to create a group on Facebook entitled 'Street Pastors are awesome!' There are now 143 members of that group.
- The young women who felt able to talk about her fears of an ex-boyfriend being released from prison.
- The many people who have wanted to talk about spirituality. They have wanted to explore what their life means and to talk about finding meaning.
- The young woman whose boyfriend split up with her on a night out leaving sitting in the square distressed.
- The man who collapsed with a suspected heart attack.
- Being asked to pray for a man with terminal stomach cancer.
- Signposting 2 men to the Medical Centre who wanted to get help with drug use.

Mel Parkin

Treasurers Report for 2010 AGM

I took over as treasurer in January 2010 on a trial basis, time allowing I plan to continue in this role.

Final figures for year commencing December 2008 to November 2009

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|--------------------------|-----------|
| Total income for period: | £14175.00 |
| Total expenditure: | £8044.39 |
| Closing balance: | £6130.61 |

During this first year a good proportion of our expenditure has gone on Administration costs, Training and Uniform.

We have however, as you can see from the figures listed above, been very fortunate with funding, in that we have had substantial donations from local business, the local Police Force, Harborough District Council, Churches in the surrounding area and indeed our Individual Street Pastors.

To maintain Harborough Street Pastors general running costs for equipment, training, and resources etc for the future year, we will need to find ways of fundraising, along with increasing our profile within the local community.

Marie Hill (Treasurer)

**Situations in which Street Pastors have provided support
April 2009 – March 2010**

Practical help provided April 2009 – March 2010

Street Pastors have had 1369 contacts with people April 2009 – March 2010

Of the 49 weeks to date that we could have been out serving on the street we have been out for 42 weeks.

In those 42 weeks we have given a total of 690.5 volunteer hours to the community.