

**ORIGINATOR: PAUL DALTRY**

**PAPER NO: AP14/64**

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL  
24 OCTOBER 2014**

**SUBJECT: TOWN PASTORS**

**SUMMARY:** The Police and Crime Commissioner has awarded £47,000 to Town Pastor schemes in Suffolk. The grant is administered through a central county Town Pastor scheme (seeking charitable status) and the first quarterly grant has been distributed.

The funding supports mostly the larger schemes in Suffolk and the work at Latitude Festival and enables the schemes to maintain the steady presence on the streets of the night time economy within nine towns in Suffolk.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The PCC is asked to continue to support the work of the Town Pastors as outlined in his Police and Crime Plan.

## DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

### 1. KEY ISSUES AND PROGRESS:

- 1.1 Town Pastors have been successfully continuing their work across the county in the nine locations over the summer period. On figures that have been submitted to date from the various schemes Town Pastors have noted over 12,000 actions (Please see attached appendix A of statistics). Approximately 8,500 of these Town Pastor actions involve directly helping a person or group of people (stats categories 1-10 inclusive). This work is broadly in line with the work that Town Pastors have been doing over the past years and continues a close partnership that has developed between The Town Pastors, Police, Night Time Economy Businesses and Local Authorities.
- 1.2 The benefits of having Town Pastors on the streets include:
- Helping to make Suffolk towns a safer place on a Friday and Saturday night.
  - Helping to make people feel safe (fear of crime is a very real issue).
  - Helping those who have consumed excessive amounts of alcohol.
  - Ensuring, where possible, that vulnerable people are able to get home safely.
  - Providing a friendly presence, in a non-judgemental and non-confrontational way.
  - Peaceful outcomes to potentially violent situations.
  - Provision of water and chocolate which improves hydration and general attitude therefore reducing the risk of intolerant or aggressive behaviour.
- 1.3 Other specific outcomes are:
- The reduction in ambulance call-outs, as Town Pastors are able to offer care and support to intoxicated individuals who might otherwise need medical attention.
  - A reduction in arrests, as Town Pastors are sometimes able to calm situations and avoid arrests due to anti-social behaviour and/or failure to comply with Section 27 'direction to leave locality' notices.
- 1.4 Town Pastors also reduce the risk of injury by removing bottles and glasses (potential weapons) from the streets. During period April - September 2014 over 2,500 bottles were removed from the streets of Suffolk towns.
- 1.5 Town Pastors regularly receive thanks and appreciation from those enjoying an evening or night out in Suffolk towns.
- 1.6 The Town Pastors (central body) is now a company limited by guarantee and is applying for charitable status. As is it is an incorporated body it has been able to handle the distribution of the PCC grant, and also other funds that have come in particularly from the Suffolk County Council's Chairman's charity appeal over the last year. This body now holds the franchise for the Town Pastor scheme and will seek to maintain the quality of the schemes across the county. It is keen to enable county wide good practise and enable the nine schemes to have a voice in the county, but it is concerned to ensure that these central costs are kept to a minimum. Appendix C has the accounts of the central body showing how the grant has been disbursed in line with the commissioned service.
- 1.7 Town Pastors also attended the Latitude Festival bringing a team of over twenty Town Pastors to provide a presence in the day time throughout the camp sites and for the busiest two nights within the 'Rave Area' in the woods. On average we had five pairs out each night. Incidents covered included the usual issues with alcohol and drug over doses but particularly a lady in her late forties broke her leg in the mud, and the Town Pastors found her, radioed through for help and helped in her evacuation from a difficult situation. An underage child in the area who had evaded

her parents was found by the Town Pastors and reunited with her parents. The presence of the Town Pastors is much appreciated both by Festival Republic the organisers, but also by the sub-contracted security companies and of course the police who have no uniformed presence on site except at the command pod.

- 1.8 Over many years it has been felt that Town Pastors have played a significant role not just in crime reduction and prevention, but also in preventing paramedic/ambulance calls and A and E admissions (as well as saving police time in looking after vulnerable drunks). This has been recognised by the Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and a presentation of the work of Town Pastors to the CCG took place recently. Continued support from the statutory agencies and positive feedback is a real encouragement to the Town Pastor schemes. As has been shown in Ipswich where the statutory sector, night time economy businesses and the Town Pastors work together much can be accomplished and the Purple Flag award for the town is a sign of that.

## **2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 2.1 Please see Appendix A for the statistics covering each town for the last six months (Appendix B describes the categories). Appendix C shows the income and expenditure for the Town Pastor central body. Please note that whilst Appendix A shows data for the first 6 months, the second quarter's grant has not yet been received at the time of writing.

- 2.2 The grant is a very significant part of Suffolk Town Pastors funding and it has helped to keep a large number of people safe on the streets of Suffolk towns on a Friday and Saturday night. From April – September 2014:

- Town Pastors ensured the personal safety/wellbeing of 406 people; this included making sure vulnerable people got safely to their transport, were walked home, or were reunited with friends.
- Town Pastors cared for 310 people who were excessively drunk and incapable of looking after themselves. The necessity for ambulance call-outs for the excessively drunk is greatly reduced when Town Pastors are on duty and able to care for these people. In addition, each person was kept safe from theft of personal belongings while drunk and incapable.
- On 123 occasions Town Pastors were able to prevent/reduce crime often by diffusing fights or calming potentially aggressive situations. This reduced personal injury and the need for the police to make arrests.
- CCTV and/or police were made aware of 140 incidents/potential incidents or persons of note.

- 2.3 These figures show good progress in providing the service during Q1 and Q2 of the grant period.

## **3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:**

- 3.1 One of the issues currently facing Town Pastors is that of volunteer recruitment. Ipswich has been running over eight years now and the pool of potential recruits seems to be drying up. This is a challenge also noted in some of the other schemes. In many towns the vitality of the night time economy seems to have reduced and there appears to be less for the Town Pastors to do. However their very presence as 'capable guardians' in hi-viz uniforms may mean there **is** less to do! Keeping the schemes refreshed and alive is one of the current issues and possible help through

media engagement, encouragement from partner agencies may be ways of lifting interest and morale.

<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	No
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.