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PAPER NO: AP15/46

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –
16 JUNE 2015**

SUBJECT: CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT: TOWN PASTORS

SUMMARY:

In 2014/2015 The Police and Crime Commissioner awarded £47,000 to Town Pastor schemes in Suffolk. Payable in quarterly instalments, this grant has been administered through a central county Town Pastor scheme (seeking charitable status). All quarterly instalments have been distributed within twenty-four hours of receipt.

The funding supports mostly the larger schemes in Suffolk and the work at Latitude Festival enabling the schemes to maintain patrols 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

Town Pastors have successfully continued their work across the county in the nine locations during Q4 (January, February and March 2015). Based on figures that have been submitted from the nine schemes, Town Pastors have noted 4,582 actions during Q4 (Please see attached Appendix A showing statistics for the Grant Period (April 2014 – March 2015) and Appendix B describing the categories). Approximately 3,334 of these Town Pastor actions involve directly helping a person or group of people (stats categories 1-10 inclusive). These figures are significantly lower than for Q1, Q2 and Q3 of the Grant Period. This is to be expected due to there being significantly less people enjoying a night out during the post-Christmas season. A more significant drop in actions carried out by Newmarket Town Pastors is noted. This is due to less people being out in Newmarket and a reduction in Newmarket Town Pastors patrol times following the closure of a large nightclub and other venues. These closures and other factors have had a significant impact on the night-time economy in Newmarket.

During the Grant Period Town Pastors have noted 22,921 actions. Approximately 16,083 actions involve directly helping a person or group of people (stats categories 1-10 inclusive). Many situations involve Town Pastors caring for those involved in, or affected by drunkenness and anti-social behaviour. Town Pastors continue to value and appreciate each person, treating them with dignity and respect whatever their background and circumstances.

Town Pastors have continued to fulfil the aims and objectives as listed in the business case during Q4 to:

- Look out for and support vulnerable people, providing assistance where appropriate.
- Provide a presence of friendliness and care so people can enjoy their night out.
- Defuse potentially aggressive situations.
- Are available to people as listeners.
- Encourage safe behaviour for all.
- Foster good relationships between the public, the police, taxi drivers, door staff, other voluntary agencies and Local authorities who are involved in managing the night time economy.

Q4 figures reflect that Town Pastors have continued to make a valuable contribution to the reduction of crime and disorder through these colder months:

- Town Pastors ensured the personal safety/wellbeing of 211 people; this included making sure vulnerable people got safely to their transport, were walked home, or were reunited with friends. The presence of Town Pastors in these situations considerably reduces the risk of assault, theft and sexual assault.
- Town Pastors alerted CCTV and/or police to 48 incidents/potential incidents or persons of note.
- On 48 occasions Town Pastors were able to prevent/reduce crime often by diffusing fights or calming potentially aggressive situations. This reduced personal injury, the need for police intervention and the need for police to make arrests.

Town Pastors also continue to reduce the risk of injury by removing bottles and glasses (potential weapons) from the streets. During Q4 a further 834 bottles and glasses were removed from the streets of Suffolk towns.

Fear of crime is a serious issue and Town Pastors have an important role in making people feel safe. Town Pastors are a 'friendly presence' alongside the door-staff, CCTV, police, and emergency services as part of the team working to make Suffolk towns safer on a Friday and

Saturday evening/night. Town Pastors regularly receive thanks and appreciation from those enjoying an evening or night out.

The Town Pastors (central body) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is still in the process of applying for charitable status. As it is an incorporated body it has been able to handle the distribution of the PCC grant and the large donation from Suffolk County Council's Chairman's charity appeal over the last year. This body 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 practice 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 shows how the grant has been disbursed in line with the commissioned service. During Q4 Town Pastors (central body) have taken on the responsibility for organising the provision of Town Pastors (known as Festival Pastors) from Suffolk Town Pastors schemes at Latitude Festival. This managing role was previously undertaken by Ipswich Town Pastors.

For many years it is considered that Town Pastors have played a significant role in:

- Crime reduction and prevention
- Preventing paramedic/ambulance calls (and A & E admissions)
- The care and support for vulnerable people
- Improving the atmosphere by being a friendly presence on the streets of Suffolk towns

It has been a particular honour for the Co-ordinator of Bury Town Pastors to receive a British Empire Medal in the 2015 New Year Honours list for 'services to policing and community safety in Bury St Edmunds'. This was presented at a local ceremony by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Lady Euston. This honour further demonstrates the impact Town Pastors have in contributing to community safety in Suffolk towns and in the reduction of crime and disorder.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Please see Appendix A for the statistics covering each town for the Grant Period and Appendix B describing the categories. Appendix C shows the disbursement of funds from the central body.

Appendix D shows how the Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant has been used by Town Pastors in Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Ipswich, Lowestoft, Stowmarket, Town Pastors (central body) and Town Pastors at Latitude Festival (known as Festival Pastors). Felixstowe, Newmarket, Sudbury and Woodbridge Town Pastors raised sufficient funds from other sources and did not require additional funding from The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Grant Period. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant has made a significant difference to Town Pastors across Suffolk enabling them to continue to provide a service in Suffolk towns and at Latitude Festival.

All Town Pastor schemes receive funding primarily from grants and from donations made by local churches. Donations are also received from individuals. Grants may be accessed at a local level or through the Suffolk Community Foundation (for grants from funds such as The Suffolk Giving Fund and the High Sheriff's Fund). Funding also comes from a variety of other sources including councillors' locality budgets, support from local businesses (financially or in kind) and grants specific to the locality.

Funding continues to be essential, enabling Town Pastors to help to keep large numbers of people safe on the streets of Suffolk towns each weekend and at Latitude Festival.

During the Grant Period Town Pastors have offered help and support in a non-judgmental and non-confrontational way:

- Town Pastors have given pastoral care and a listening ear in 662 situations where a person wanted to discuss problems they are facing in their lives ie marriage or relationship issues, drug issues etc. or where Town Pastors have dealt with a person who has/or is suspected of having mental health issues, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Soldiers), depression etc.
- Town Pastors cared for 621 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. A considerable number of these people will have been cared for by Town Pastors and an ambulance callout will have been avoided. In some of these situations Town Pastors will have called an ambulance if necessary.
- 12,041 people were provided with water/refreshment which improves hydration and general attitude therefore reducing the risk of intolerant or aggressive behaviour.
- CCTV and/or police were made aware of 260 incidents/potential incidents or persons of note.
- Town Pastors have removed 4,832 dangerous item (potential weapons), usually bottles and glasses, from the streets of Suffolk towns.
- There are 657 recorded encounters with people who are homeless, or presenting as homeless. These encounters often contribute towards the safety and wellbeing of these particularly vulnerable people.
- There are 80 recorded situations of domestic tension or violence. These include any incident between a couple that could become or has become violent where Town Pastor intervention takes place or the situation is referred to Police or CCTV.
- There are 14 recorded situations of racial tension: Any incident of violence, abuse or threatening behaviour (verbal or physical) on the basis of an individual's race or ethnic background where Town Pastors witness, intervene or report.

These figures show continued good progress in providing the service during the grant period.

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The challenge of recruitment was noted in the Q1 and Q2 report. Further recruitment and training has taken place during Q3 and Q4. This has increased the numbers of Town Pastors and Prayer Team members in some schemes and has enabled numbers to remain constant in other schemes.

Although in many towns the vitality of the night time economy seems to have reduced, the presence of Town Pastors as 'capable guardians' in hi-vis uniforms is still very much needed. This is confirmed by the number of Town Pastor activities recorded during the grant period.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
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