



Town Pastors *Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest*

ORIGINATOR: Town Pastors

PAPER NO:

SUBMITTED TO: The Police and Crime Commissioner

SUBJECT: Town Pastors

SUMMARY: In 2016/2017 The Police and Crime Commissioner awarded £49,995 to Town Pastor schemes in Suffolk. Payable in quarterly instalments, this grant has been administered through a central county Town Pastor scheme. All quarterly instalments have been distributed.

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 ten 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: *This section should show progress on the key activities by scheme area, statistics collected and satisfaction with the service (as outlined in the business case).*

Town Pastors have successfully continued their work across the county in the ten locations during the year April 2016 – March 2017.

Based on figures that have been submitted from the ten schemes, Town Pastors have noted 23,202 actions. Of these actions, 17,107 involve directly helping a person or group of people (stats categories 1-10 inclusive).

Please note that Ipswich Town Pastors stats figures for December 2016 are temporarily unavailable therefore Ipswich Town Pastors figures for December have been estimated, based on the average of remaining 11 months. December is usually a busy month due to the Christmas period so these estimated figures may be lower than the actual figures.

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. This work continues to be broadly in line with the work that Town Pastors have been doing over the past years and maintains the close partnership that has developed between The Town Pastors, Police, Night Time Economy Businesses and Local Authorities.

Town Pastors have continued to fulfil the aims and objectives as listed in the business case 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.

Due to serious medical issues effecting all members of the Management Committee or their immediate family members and a decline in numbers of volunteers, Stowmarket Town Pastors found it necessary to suspend patrols from May-September 2016. There has been a restructuring of the co-ordination of Stowmarket Town Pastors and further recruitment, resulting in regular patrols recommencing in October 2016.

Newly formed Leiston Town Pastors held a recruitment evening in September 2016 which was supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Volunteers were trained during October and November. Town Pastors began patrolling the streets of Leiston in December 2016. Their presence on the streets of Leiston has been welcomed by the local community and is helping to make Leiston a safer place.

The figures for 2016-2017 reflect that Town Pastors have continued to make a valuable contribution to the reduction of crime and disorder in Suffolk towns throughout the year:

- Town Pastors ensured the personal safety/wellbeing of 763 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 286 incidents/potential incidents or persons of note.

- On 241 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 continue to reduce the risk of injury by removing bottles and glasses (potential weapons) from the streets. During the year, Town Pastors removed 4,337 dangerous items from the streets of Suffolk towns during the year; the majority of these were bottles and glasses.

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. This may be thanks for help on a specific occasion or thanks because people feel safer when Town Pastors are patrolling the streets.

The Town Pastors (central body) is a charitable company limited by guarantee. As it is an incorporated body it has been able to handle the distribution of the PCC grant 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 ten 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.

Town Pastors (central body) also have the responsibility for organising the provision of Town Pastors (known as Festival Pastors) from Suffolk Town Pastors schemes at Latitude Festival. Festival Pastors provided a non-judgemental, friendly presence and helped to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by being visible capable guardians.

The Town Pastors (central body) is also very keen to see the work of Town Pastors continue to develop within Suffolk and hopes to work with representatives from churches in additional towns within Suffolk with a view to the setting up of Town Pastors.

In towns across Suffolk, Town Pastors continue to play a significant role in:

- Crime reduction and prevention
- Preventing paramedic/ambulance calls (and A & E admissions)
- The care and support for vulnerable people, including saving police time by looking after vulnerable intoxicated individuals
- Improving the atmosphere by being a friendly presence on the streets

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: *This section should outline the financial breakdown show progress on the key activities by scheme area, statistics collected and satisfaction with the service (as outlined in the business case).*

Please see Appendix A for the statistics covering each town for the year April 2016 – March 2017 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, Felixstowe, Haverhill, Ipswich, Leiston, Lowestoft, Stowmarket, Sudbury, Woodbridge, and Town Pastors at Latitude Festival (known as Festival Pastors). Newmarket Town Pastors raised sufficient funds from other sources and did not require additional funding from The Police and Crime Commissioner. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant has made a very 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, Private Funds 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 on weekend nights and at Latitude Festival.

During the year, Town Pastors have offered help, care and support in a non-judgmental and non-confrontational way:

- Town Pastors have given pastoral care and a listening ear in 671 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 459 people who were excessively drunk and incapable of looking after themselves. The necessity for ambulance call-outs for highly intoxicated individuals is greatly reduced when Town Pastors are on duty and able to care for these people. Each person was kept safe from theft of personal belongings while drunk and incapable. In addition, they were also protected from becoming the victim of a physical and/or sexual assault. In some of these situations Town Pastors will have called an ambulance if necessary.
- 12,820 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 286 incidents/potential incidents or persons of note.
- There are 1,578 recorded encounters with people who are homeless, or presenting as homeless during the year. This is a very significant increase from the 799 recorded encounters during the previous year (2015-2016). These encounters often contribute towards the safety and wellbeing of these particularly vulnerable people.
- There are 62 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 year.

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS: *See checklist below. The relevant issues identified from the checklist should be explained as appropriate.*

It continues to be a challenge for Town Pastor schemes to maintain a sufficient level of volunteers. Active recruitment and training of new Town Pastors and Prayer Team members is regularly undertaken in order to enable numbers to remain constant or to be increased.

Although in many towns the vitality of the night time economy seems to have reduced or changed, the presence of Town Pastors as 'capable guardians' in high visibility uniforms is still very much needed. This is confirmed by the number of Town Pastor activities recorded during the year.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*

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

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