



Bideford Street Pastors

It is always difficult to quantify the effectiveness of a 'soft' service but the police have consistently recorded significant reductions in crime and antisocial behaviour during our patrol periods. Behind each of the incidents we record there is a person or a family whose lives have been positively affected and underlying the improved Police records there are real people whose lives have not been damaged.

Street Pastors was founded by Revd Les Isaacs, OBE, in 2003 as a church response to growing gun and knife crime and antisocial behaviour, particularly on the streets during the operation of the night-time economy. Teams of 3 or 4 patrol appropriate areas watching out for people who are vulnerable, in danger or simply need some assistance to get themselves safely home. Starting from just 18 volunteers in London, the movement has now spread into 10 countries and has trained over 15,500 Street Pastors and 9,000 Prayer Pastors.

Spin-off operations include School & College Pastors, Rail Pastors and Response Pastors.

All Street Pastor volunteers are professionally trained to meet the challenges they may expect. In addition to basic Roles and Responsibilities, training includes awareness of Safeguarding, Mental Health, Conflict Management & Resolution, Police Practices, Community Issues, Drugs, Alcohol, Dangerous Items, Listening Skills, Youth Culture. Bideford Street Pastors are also First Aid trained.

We are entirely funded by the local community we serve. It costs about £350 to train and equip a new Street Pastor and about £7000 per annum to maintain our operations at the current level. We are often asked to do more!

Bideford statistics from June 2009 to December 2017

		<i>Totals</i>
Number of SP Duties		1841
SP Hours		12467
PT Hours		7308
Total Volunteer Hours		19775
Situations		
Calming aggressive		367
Support vulnerable		763
Other Anti-social Attended		217
Practical Help		
Flip-flops		1873
Water/hot drinks		755
First aid Administered		168
Safety blanket deployed		167
Potentially dangerous items collected:		
Bottles/Glass		16747
Other items		103
Lives Saved		4
Referrals:		
Street Pastors card		617
Alcohol/Drugs		21
Homeless		14
Mental health		4
Significant Contacts:		20047

“There are those who say we have lost our young people and society, but there must always be hope”

(Revd Les Isaacs, OBE)

The Church out on the streets to Care, Listen and Help