

Lincoln Street Pastors

SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

Launched in October 2007, Lincoln Street Pastors aim to provide assistance to revellers and help keep people safe in Lincoln City Centre, by helping, listening and caring for those who become vulnerable on a night out.

The three key roles of the street pastors are to support the homeless, including helping individuals find homes through referring them on to other agencies; listening to people's problems; and helping those who have consumed too much alcohol, including helping them sober up, preventing injuries, reuniting individuals with their friends or relatives, and where necessary escorting them home safely.

Lincoln Street Pastors represents 18 churches and has 41 operational street pastors and 32 prayer team members, contributing approximately 32,000 volunteer hours a year. The project costs in excess of £18,000 per year to run.

Between 1 November 2009 and 27 February 2010, street pastors and prayer teams worked 33 nights, dedicating over 268 hours to patrolling the streets. During this time they engaged in 790 conversations with revellers and 104 conversations with homeless people, removed 727 bottles, and distributed 121 pairs of flip flops, 58 space blankets, 62 bottles of water and 95 referral cards.

A Safe Zone survey in 2009 showed that 61% of people felt that the Street Pastors were a benefit to Lincoln and provided a deterrent to anti-social behaviour.

Although the role of the street pastors is not one of crime prevention, but of care and support, and other activity has taken

place alongside the street pastors that will have influenced crime levels, there has been a 40% reduction in crime levels in the area the street pastors patrolled, which is 1.5 times higher than that recorded in non-patrolled areas, equating to a 27% reduction.

In addition, there has been a 47% decrease in violence against the person offences in the patrolled area, compared with 39% in non-patrolled areas, 42% reduction in aggravated bodily harm, a 67% reduction in public disorder behaviour offences, and a 48% reduction in threatening behaviour.

Part of these reductions can be put down to the presence of the street pastors, who although do not directly intervene in offences, can act as intermediaries in disputes, preventing them from becoming physical altercations and causing more serious injuries, and having a positive impact on the levels of public order.

For further information on Lincoln Street Pastors visit

<http://www.streetpastors.co.uk/ProjectArea/Midlands/Lincoln/tabid/447/Default.aspx>