

STP Evaluation

An independent evaluation of the effectiveness of Stockton Town Pastors, commissioned in April 2011, has now been completed.

STP works within the night-time economy alongside the police and council services on Friday and Saturday evenings; as well as with pub and club registered door staff, taxi drivers and food outlet retailers, to provide a safe and welcoming environment for those enjoying the town's nightlife.

In April this year Dr Philip Whitehead, a reader in the School of Social Sciences and Law at Teesside University, agreed to carry out a detailed '360^o' independent evaluation of the work of STP, with a BSc (Hons) student Justin Kotze carrying out the research.

In summary, the findings have shown that *"Stockton Town Pastors have been extremely well received by Stockton's various night time economy service providers and their respective clientele, with the majority of respondents not only expressing incredible admiration and appreciation for the volunteers, but also articulating considerably in-depth knowledge regarding the many services provided by the volunteers of Stockton Town Pastors."*

It is also revealed that *".....representatives from both Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Cleveland Police articulate that the Stockton Town Pastors have indeed contributed to Stockton's reduction in crime, and are considered to be an integral part of their overall crime and disorder reduction strategy."*

The full report can be found on the STP website: www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk in the 'downloads' page. The Police and Stockton Borough Council are so pleased with the report that they are considering using it at a national level to demonstrate the advantages that are to be gained from engaging with local community groups in reducing crime and the fear of crime.

The STP Management Board wishes to sincerely thank the researcher Justin Kotze and Dr Philip Whitehead for producing the report to such high academic standards; and to the many individuals who gave of their time to answer their questions.

STP Has a 'Slogan'

How do you explain in one simple phrase exactly what an organisation does? You devise a 'strap-line' or slogan which accurately describes what you do—and in the case of STP we offer:

***"Care and Compassion
in the Night-Time Environment"***

This has been incorporated within our title which, in conjunction with our logo, will appear on all future STP documents—our own corporate brand. So all volunteers can now tell their friends in simple terms what we get up to on a Friday and Saturday evening!



Robin Gets British Citizenship

Robin, a friend of Stockton Town Pastors almost since we began patrols in November 2009, gained British Citizenship in a ceremony held at Stockton Town Hall on 7th September 2011.



Robin, Iranian by birth, arrived as an asylum seeker in the UK 8 years ago, and has been in Stockton for 2 years. He has worked extremely hard to achieve Citizen status and is extremely proud to be called 'British'. He is now busy applying for a passport so that he can visit his mother in Turkey, who he has not seen since arriving in the UK.

Many congratulations, Robin—we hope that you stay in touch and we have very much enjoyed helping you to develop a greater understanding of the English language.

STP Help in Rough Sleepers Count

In October 2011 Stockton Borough Council (SBC) will be conducting a 'Rough Sleepers Count' to try and determine the number of people who are homeless and living on the streets; and to engage them via the council's 'Housing Options' scheme, offering wrap-around support in respect of accommodation and a range of health, addiction and financial services.

STP volunteers will be helping SBC with this survey and we hope this will become yet another way in assisting our community.

Friends of STP

Stockton Town Pastors have recently embarked upon a media and fundraising campaign amongst local churches and the Christian community, in order to make more people aware of our work and to ensure its sustainability.

You can become a 'Friend of STP' by volunteering with us, by engaging in prayer support, by contributing financially (we are now a registered charity and can claim gift-aid against donations), or simply by registering with use to be kept informed of our activities.

In response you will be included in regular email updates, be sent monthly newsletters, have access to the members area of our website and be invited to our quarterly social events.

You can register as a friend by contacting the project manager (see back page for details). Additionally, donation / gift-aid forms and volunteer application forms can be downloaded from the STP website (under the 'downloads' page).

STP would like to retain and expand Christian support for the project as it continues to reach out to those in need. It is actively looking for a premises on the High Street from which, in conjunction with others, it can offer care guidance and support. The STP Management Board very much see this activity as a gift from the churches to the local community, and it is therefore essential that the Christian community continue to support it in prayer, financially and by volunteering to work on patrols or in our free café.

Remember, however, that involvement in STP is not restricted to people of a particular faith and is open to anyone who has a desire to help the local community.

If you would like the project Manager to make a presentation to your group or local church please contact Steve Brock on Tel 07526 641 196. We will be glad to come along with volunteers to tell you about the work.

STP Volunteer Training

Stockton Town Pastors is working in conjunction with 'A Way Out' to develop an accredited core training package for its volunteers. The Open College Network (OCN) will credit the training, which will consist of a one-day course followed by on-the-street assessment of volunteers and will result in students being awarded a nationally recognised certificate which they can use in their portfolio to demonstrate their experiences to employers etc. The course is free to all volunteers (both new and existing), and the date of the next training day is:

Saturday 29th October 2011

9am—5pm

**Stockton Baptist Tabernacle, The Square,
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1TE**

Free refreshments and lunch are also included. Please contact Steve Brock if you would like to attend.

Boro Angels and Hartlepool Town Pastor volunteers will also be attending, so do come along and get to meet them.

The course consists of 5 elements and is designed to provide volunteers with sufficient knowledge to be confident and safe enough to go out on patrols in either of the towns:

- Conflict Management and Resolution
- Volunteer Handbook policies & procedures
- Child & Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding
- Night-Time Environment Issues
- Initial Actions at Crime Scenes

Vote for STP

Stockton Town Pastors have been registered as a project in the **NatWest Community Force** initiative, who provide funding for local projects aimed at helping their communities.

Regional winning entries stand to benefit from funding grants of up to £6,000 and these are awarded dependent upon the number of votes it receives from the public.

Starting on Monday 26th September 2011, the voting website will be open to the public. Please give STP your vote by visiting the NatWest Community Force website:

<http://communityforce.natwest.com>

Please consider passing on this information to friends, family and colleagues and asking them to vote for us also—what a great way of letting them know what you are doing for your community!

Prayer Points

Volunteers:

- Margot Inglis—suffering from Bells Palsy
- Joan Douglas—hamstring injury
- Jan Knox—medication imbalance
- Adam Crooks—return of epilepsy

STP Presentation to Anglican Synod on 17th September 2011, at Stockton Parish Church

If you would like to be included in future prayer lists please contact Steve Brock.

STP Project Manager:

Steve Brock

c/o/ Stockton Baptist Tabernacle,
The Square, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1TE

Tel: 07526 641 796

Visit our Website:

www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk

