

## Stowmarket Town Pastors – Application Notes

Before completing the accompanying application form please read the following explanatory notes. These are intended to help you decide if you wish to apply to be a Town Pastor.

### What is a Town Pastor?

A Town Pastor, working as part of a team and in collaboration with the police and local council, seeks to be a positive influence principally on the streets of the town centre and other night life areas. Town Pastors would typically be out at the weekends in these places from around 8pm – 11pm.

The role of a Town Pastor is not primarily evangelistic but rather about listening, caring and helping young people. It is about showing concern and offering assistance where appropriate, in a non-judgmental and unconditional way.

Town Pastors seek to be a positive presence on the streets, available to offer support to vulnerable people, de-escalate potential trouble and generally assist the police and other agencies.

For reasons of personal safety and to make the most effective use of the Town Pastors, they are monitored by CCTV in the town centre area.

### Expectations and Commitment

Town Pastors will operate in teams of two. More than one team may be out on the streets at any one time. The desire and ability to work as part of a team is therefore essential.

To be a Town Pastor you must be over 18 and a Christian who is part of a local church.

It is expected that Town Pastor teams will be out in the town centre initially on Friday nights. The teams will patrol from 8pm to around 11pm. On average each Town Pastor is expected to patrol on one night a month.

### Training

Training is an essential part of becoming a Town Pastor. Effective training also ensures we can deliver a quality service in a consistent way. Each Town Pastor *must* have completed the basic training programme before joining a team and going out.

Additional training will also be delivered and it is important that Town Pastors commit to participating in ongoing personal training and development.

**Training Dates:** (It is essential that would-be Town Pastors attend all these sessions.)

- *Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 9am-3.30pm - The values, role and responsibilities of a Town Pastor;*
- \* *Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November – 7-10pm – Conflict Management & Personal Safety*
- \* *Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 7-10pm - Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults*
- *Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 7-10pm – Alcohol and Substance Misuse Awareness*
- \* *Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 7-10pm – Basic First Aid (specifically) for Town Pastors*
- *Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7-10pm - Prayer Training and Praying together (Prayer Teams to attend)*

### How to apply

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Town Pastor. The first step towards this is to complete the accompanying application form and return it to:

**The Secretary, Stowmarket Town Pastors, c/o Salvation Army, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1NH**

References will be taken and you will need to attend a short interview. Following acceptance and training as a Town Pastor there is a probationary period to see if you are comfortable in the role.

If you would like to find out more before applying please contact the co-ordinator:

**Monica Gant on 01449 781630 or email [info@stowmarkettownpastors.org.uk](mailto:info@stowmarkettownpastors.org.uk)**