

VALUE FOR MONEY

ARUN ANGELS TAKE FLIGHT

Background

The Authority is represented on Arun CDRP by Mr Peter Bratton. Mr Bratton has been impressed by the model of street pastors that had been used across the UK where volunteers help assist people who are in distress, lost or perhaps worse for wear following a night out in town and city centres. The results of these schemes have shown significant reductions in violent crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. Peter Bratton and Arun CDRP were keen to explore the possibility of setting up a similar scheme within Arun.

The Authority adding value

Peter Bratton went about securing funding for the setting up of a street pastor scheme in Arun. He approached the Authority's Safer Neighbourhood Grant Scheme which provided £2,500 to help set the project up, and significantly, approached Butlins in Bognor, who could see significant benefits themselves for the local community and pledged £10,000 to the project. As a direct result of this funding, Arun Angels, the street pastor scheme for Arun, was set up. They took to the streets for the first time following a ceremony in St Wilfrid's Church. The aim of Arun Angels is to improve the safety of those who use the town centre bars, clubs and other licensed premises, and to reduce the fear of crime in the area. The scheme is supported by Churches Together, Arun Crime and Reduction Partnership and local businesses, as well as the Authority and Sussex Police.

Outcome

The Authority strongly believes that the Arun Angels Project in Bognor Regis is going to have a truly positive impact on reducing crime and disorder in the town centre at night and in the early hours of the morning. Peter Bratton considers it to be an exciting and innovative initiative and the Authority is pleased to have been instrumental in its development, securing of the funding and working with our key partners to make it a reality.

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