

INTRODUCTION

Staines Police have asked churches in the area to set up a "Street Angels" project. Street Angels are volunteers who believe that people deserve care and love in their time of need. They work with the police in town centres, usually around bars and clubs, to support vulnerable. This vulnerability may arise from homelessness, intoxication, drug abuse, assault or some other issue which has caused distress or offers the potential for harm. Street Angels help people whoever they are and whatever their situation by listening, caring, offering practical help or by referring people to specialist agencies who can help them.

Street Angels (and similar programmes such as Street Pastors) have been springing up across the UK over the last 2-3 years. They make a really positive impact on crime and antisocial behaviour in town centres (particularly in the vicinity of bars and clubs) by providing a calming presence on the streets late at night.

Police Sergeant Andy Oldham says "Street Angels in Staines would help us to reduce levels of crime and antisocial behaviour and free up the police to do other essential work."

We haven't rushed into this; local church leaders have thought and prayed about it and are convinced that we should be wholly committed to the project.

Street Angels is obviously about volunteers on the streets above all else. But it's about much more than that. The frontline volunteers need support; prayer, publicity, finance, organisation, equipment and encouragement.

If you would like to volunteer you need to complete the application form at the end of this handbook.

If you would like to help in a support role you should contact the Staines Street Angels Project Coordinator on 01784 441882 or write to

Staines Street Angels
16, Hale Street
STAINES
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or visit online at www.stainesstreetangels.org