ANGELS NEWS

Update from ROC Angels local projects

Street Angels offer help and support over the hot summer nights



The hot weather of Summer 2026 has not stopped the work of Street Angels supporting town and city centres on weekend evenings alongside daytime events.

In July Windsor Street Angels had 515 contacts, provided emergency first aid on four occasions and made six referrals to emergency services or other organisations.

Halifax Street Angels were joined by PC 1325 Firth and PC 1277 Cooke on foot patrol in Halifax town centre, engaging with members of the public and helping to promote safety within the night time economy.

Chester Street Angels were out during Pride and Race Days. Watford Street Angels mingled with German and Watford FC fans. Bradford Street Angels did extra patrols around a Festival.

The team in Accrington (above) were asked for a selfie from the local police!

ROC Angels

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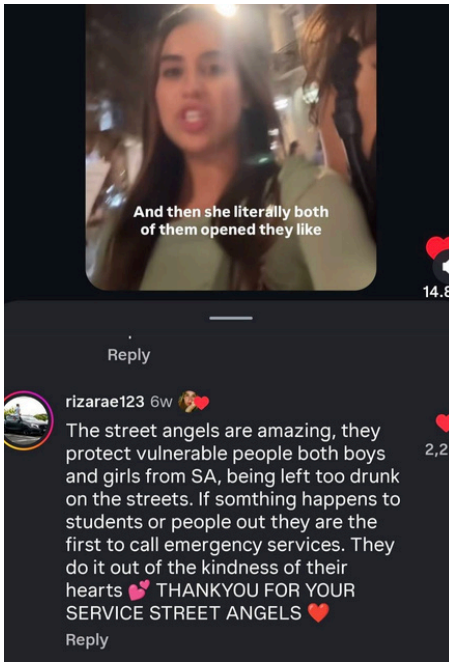
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Stay connected with ROC Angels - follow us on social media - @rocstreetangels and @festivalangels

To donate to our work - streetangels.org.uk/donate

Leeds Street Angels thanked in Instagram Reel

Leeds Street Angels were featured on an Instagram Reel where 2 young ladies were overwhelmed at the offer of free flip-flops on a night out. This led to favourable comments including "Street Angels play a fantastic and vital role in the city!"



ROC Angels feature on over 400 radio stations!

Our work on the streets and at festivals has featured on over 400 UK radio stations including BBC, independent and community stations. We talked on UCB Radio about the Prime Minister's reduction in business rates for night-time and music venues and on Premier Radio's Prayers of Hope.







Festival Angels season is well underway with Latitude, Kendal Calling and Upton-upon-Severn Blues Festival the latest festivals.

All teams have made available essential items such as plasters, sanitary products, sun lotion and anti-sceptic creme alongside offering a listening ear, tattoos and a cuppa.

At Kendal we had a team supporting Accessibility customers. At Latitude we were the final stop for the tractor train and so welcomed thousands of people!

Festival Angel Tom led a service at Mirfield Community Church which was one of the biscuit collections for Leeds Festival Prayer Cafe (with the £10 mug and unlimited drinks deal!)

The next teams will be at Darley Park Weekender in Derby, Leeds, Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing and Big Retreat Cambridgeshire.









"A special thank you to the Festival Angels, who were absolute stars and looked after us so well all weekend. They do such an important job, especially for festival-goers with accessibility needs, making sure everyone can relax and enjoy the weekend. They really are one of the things that makes Kendal Calling so special."

Lost Voice Guy





Halifax Street Angels have received a £10,000 grant from the Lottery Awards for All and £1000 from Trinity Academy Halifax First Give competition. The Year 10 students, led by Zoya, Bethany, Maia & Blake, presented about the work of Street Angels following a visit from Paul Blakey, Street Angels founder. They were successful winners!

Guiildford Street Angels celebrate 18 years of patrols in Guildford! Happy Birthday! The charity is also inviting people to take part in the Guildford 5K, 10K or Junior Run and raise money in the process - runforcharity.com/charity-landing-page/gtcc/guildford-10k-5k-juniors-2026

York Street Angels featured on BBC Radio York and had a visit to the city's CCTV control room. York city earned its fifth consecutive Purple Flag award with Street Angels part of the welcoming and safe aspect of York at night.

Colwyn Bay Street Angels were out helping Keep Wales Tidy with some litter picking.

Festival Angels are helping launch a football team! They are proud to sponsor the kit for AFC Wigginton, a Sunday League Football Team based in Tamworth.



In July, Gary Wootten, Project Lead for Street Angels Birkenhead and Chester, headed to Montpellier, France, for the **European Social Marketing Conference 2026.** The conference gathers leading practitioners, researchers, and behaviour change experts from across Europe to explore how social marketing can tackle pressing social and public health issues. Representing Hitched Communities, Gary delivered a presentation titled "Mobilising Community Capital for Night-Time Safety: A Case Study of Street Angels in Chester and Birkenhead".



Bringing Street-Level Impact to the Stage:

During the session, Gary shared practical insights and evaluation metrics from our volunteer-led, first-responder initiatives in the night-time economy. With violence against women and girls (VAWG) remaining a critical national issue in the UK, and roughly 90% of women reporting feeling unsafe in dark or crowded urban areas at night, the Street Angels model offers a proven, compassionate alternative to traditional enforcement.

By deploying trained volunteers into high-risk night-time hotspots, Street Angels provide immediate welfare support, defuse potential conflicts, remove hazards (like discarded glass), and assist vulnerable individuals before crises occur.

Practical Social Marketing in Action:

The presentation highlighted how theoretical social marketing frameworks translate directly into real-world, street-level care:

- Adapting Models to Local Realities: While Street Angels operates under a broad national banner, success relies on local co-design. Chester's focus on weekend revellers and race-day crowds differs from Birkenhead's focus on supporting recovery and homeless populations.

- Multilateral Partnerships: Real resilience comes from cross-sector collaboration. By linking volunteers, local authorities, emergency services, venue door staff, and technology like the WalkSafe app, we created a robust safety ecosystem that helped Chester maintain its prestigious Purple Flag status.

- Environmental Social Marketing & Messenger Theory: Using non-authoritarian, compassionate volunteers shifts the "choice architecture" of the street. Simple, caring touchpoints such as handing out water, flip-flops, or lollipops helps to shift cultural norms from potential aggression to community care.

Grounded in Evidence, Looking to the Future

The presentation wasn't just about what we do on the streets, but how we prove it works. Gary shared insights from an independent evaluation by Dr. Simone Benhafsi at the University of Chester, which highlighted that Street Angels Chester delivered over 2,265 volunteer hours and managed 92 direct CCTV call-outs across an 18-month period.

Building on what we shared and learned in Montpellier, our next steps focus on strengthening this evidence base even further. We are exploring predictive data analytics to heat-map hotspots and looking into longitudinal health studies to track potential reductions

in local A&E admissions.

Our participation in Montpellier reflects the collaborative model that drives everything we do. Supported by partners including Cheshire Police, Wirral Council, Cheshire West & Chester Council, ROC Angels, Hitch Marketing, and the National Lottery, these projects demonstrate how strategic social marketing and community mobilisation can work hand-in-hand to deliver safer, more resilient towns and cities.

A huge thank you to the ESMC organisers and attendees for a fantastic conference. We look forward to embedding these European social marketing insights into our ongoing work across Chester, Birkenhead, and beyond!



Please pray for: Street Angels in all they do bringing change within towns and cities. Festival Angels and the teams at the festivals to happen. The thousands of people helped and supported by an Angel over the summer. Young people who hear about Street and Festival Angels in schools (pictured Year 10 Trinity Academy Halifax First Give competition). New people to sign-up to local projects. The work of Street Angels Magaluf as it closes the 2026 season. Those we partner with including Police, Festivals, Purple Flag and others.



One of our Guildford Street Angels recently shared an experience they had at the railway station, when a group of young men ran over to say someone needed help. They led the team to a man by the bridge, where several strangers were already looking out for him.

Angels were able to move him to safety, assess him, and stay with him while he recovered. Despite feeling very unwell, he still managed to apologise for pushing one of the team away because he "didn't want to be sick on (their) trainers!" He even found time to ask if we were on Facebook!

Once he was feeling better, the team contacted a friend who came to help. After making sure he was well enough to travel, the team helped him safely into an Uber home.

The best part? Those young men knew to come and find us because they'd learned about Street Angels at school, and complete strangers had already stepped in to help. It's a reminder that when a community looks out for each other, it can make a real difference.



Thanks to **Fat Franks Camping Supplies** who have sponsored the Leeds Festival Angels mugs again this year.

Each year communities host Festivals that bring people together for music, culture and new experiences. Festival Angels have a model that can easily be replicated at smaller local events. For details see festivalangels.org.uk/local

Festival Angels Alma and Sharon were invited to **Beccafest**, a festival themed party. They had to go in a festival themed outfit - what else could they go as but Festival Angels!

Thanks to Benefact Trust for funding for this newsletter and the work of ROC Angels.















We met a man whose trousers kept falling down, so one of our Plymouth City Pastors team removed his belt and gave it to the guy.

He was quite taken aback, referring to our team member as “a legend”.

Even a belt can be used to show God’s kindness!