

**Street Angels -
Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) Network**

Business and Vision Plan



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Introduction to SA-CNI:

Street Angels was launched in Halifax in November 2005 as a response by Churches Together and YMCA in the town to the problems around the nightlife. Violence, sexual assaults, under age and binge drinking meant the town was a no go area for many people. The project went from idea to reality in just over two weeks and had the full support of the town centre's Police.

As the project became a success very quickly representatives from other towns and cities across the UK (and beyond) visited Halifax or spoke to the founder Paul Blakey about Street Angels. In July 2006 Watford Street Angels launched with Huddersfield Street Angels launching in October 2006 and Harrogate Town Pastors in December 2006.

By the end of 2007 thirteen towns were running Street Angel, or similar, projects with many more interested in setting up similar scheme and invitations were received for volunteers from Halifax to carry out talks in various conference events including Church, Police and Government networks.

In 2008 a vision was set to help establish a UK Network of night-time projects and so to launch this the first Christian Nightlife Initiatives Network conference was held in Halifax. With around fifty attendees from across the UK the project helped inspire and equip those running projects and helped several new projects to launch. The number of UK projects numbered thirty one by the end of 2008 with twenty nine more interested visits from towns and cities across the UK and around the world.

A further ten projects launched in 2009 and Street Angels - Christian Nightlife Initiatives was gaining momentum as a great way for the local church to make a difference within the local community at a time when help and assistance is most needed. The flexibility of the Street Angels model means that it can work in a small village where the problems are centred around young people sat in a park drinking to large cities where patrol projects are needed until the early hours of the morning.

In 2010 the year started with founder Paul Blakey receiving a MBE in the New Years Honours - this helped establish Street Angels - Christian Nightlife Initiatives and projects across the UK as a concept honoured at the highest level. In April 2010 Street Angels - Christian Nightlife Initiatives became its own charity with an aim to strengthen the national work of the organisation and its wider links. Around sixty eight projects, that we know of, were working across the UK.

2011 saw five strands of the work of CNI were established: Local projects; Network; National Influence; Making The Difference; and Love Your Streets

In 2012 with over 100 local project operating, and with links made to projects in Northern Ireland, Tenerife and Australia, Street Angels - CNI was awarded the Big Society Award. Presented by the Prime Minister it is a testimony to the great work carried out week in and week out.

Local Projects:

With over 100 local expressions of work happening within the night-time economy (5pm - 6am) this is the main focus of the work of SA-CNI.

Each local project is run and managed locally with support, resources and promotion offered by SA-CNI as the national umbrella organisation. This support varies from project to project. Having an umbrella organisation show statutory bodies, such as Police and the Local Authority, that a local project is partnering with a nationally recognised organisation which offer credibility.

Local projects often contribute to a reduction in violent crime and sexual assaults and place the church at the forefront of socially impacting work. Towns and cities where a SA-CNI project operates usually help move the night-time economy from binge culture to better - with an increasing number of areas receiving a Purple Flag award which is a standard for a safe and vibrant night-life. At a personal level thousands of people receive direct help, often at a time when they are most vulnerable, and hundreds are equipped to volunteer in an award winning project.

SA-CNI aims to resource local projects with links to uniform supplies, an on-line shop to centrally purchase supplies (such as first aid) and www.wehelpedu.org.uk site which allows on-line and text giving and giving as you shop and donate a scrap car.

Our linked local projects include:

- Patrol projects - such as Street Angels, Street Chaplains, Town Pastors and NightLight working on streets, parks and beaches
- detached youth work such as Youth Angels and safe place caravans
- bar and club work including Club Angels and lap-dancing bar chaplaincy
- safe place night cafe's and dry bars such as The Living Room in Tenerife and Tea and Toast in Tring
- work with homeless and those with chaotic lifestyles
- alternative night events such as music in coffee bars

We believe the need is that 750 towns and cities need a night-time based patrol project in the UK with more smaller communities affected by alcohol related issues where projects could run. Multiple SA-CNI related projects could run in each area - for example Youth Angels 5pm - 8pm; Street Angels and safe place drop-in 9pm - 3am; Club Angels 11pm - 3am.

We are also looking at needs in Europe over the summer where the UK night-time scene is moved abroad and problems caused within those areas.

Network:

We believe that projects working together within a region strengthens the work that happens within each locality. Some areas run joint training (including accredited qualifications) and others annual regional conferences. SA-CNI promote networking and have a Regional Leadership Team in place to promote this.

We also partner with a wide range of organisations who complement and support the work and needs in the night-time economy and who invest in volunteering (a full list of partners is on our web site)

SA-CNI organise a conference every 2 years to bring together those who lead and volunteer in local projects. These are a great time of strengthening and encouragement and share ideas and resources.

We are currently working with Neighbourhood Watch to develop a central database / web site of volunteering opportunities and way of organising current volunteers.

SA-CNI worked with More Than Gold - the churches response to the Olympics - on recruiting and coordinating volunteer Games Pastors based in transport hubs in London. We also coordinated the #LondonTrailer which became a performance stage for music, dance and drama on council estates, high streets and parks with an aim to engage with people. We organised a team to look at needs in Edinburgh over the August Bank Holiday 2012 with an aim to link different works in the night economy.

Our vision is to see more regional Networks established and working well so that the work on the streets and value of volunteers is celebrated more. A new thought of citywide CNI Networks is in development to bring together different expressions of night-time work.

More national events, such as Glasgow 2014 and music festivals, could benefit from UK wide volunteering and help volunteers become part of the bigger picture.

National Influence:

SA-CNI believes that the amazing local stories need to be told at every level of society. We produce a monthly Blog based newsletter which is emailed out to over 1500 people and groups and update our Facebook and Twitter regularly with good news stories.

Recently SA-CNI received the Big Society Award at a reception at Number 10 attended by Prime Minister David Cameron. The Prime Minister had heard of our work with a similar project running in his constituency. We are now actively working with the Big Society Network.

In 2010 founder of SA-CNI received an MBE for his services to community safety in Calderdale. The MBE was presented by Her Majesty the Queen who commented that our work sounds fascinating and much needed.

SA-CNI is regularly featured on local, regional and national media with stories that highlight the work local projects carry out as well as provide comment to news stories. Recent coverage includes BBC Look North, Sky News, ITN, Premier and UCB Radio. Our aim is to be a voice for Christian based work within the night-time economy and alcohol and drug related issues.

We have met with various MP's and groups such as Association of Police Officers, Church denomination leads and link with organisations such as Hope, More Than Gold and Cinnamon Network.

Our vision is to be able to impact others with the amazing stories of what is achieved locally. We want to speak out on issues we experience first hand so that positive change has opportunity to happen.

Making The Difference:

We believe people are the key part to the success of any local project or the wider network. SA-CNI has a vision of 'Supporting People and Making The Difference'. We do this in a variety of ways:

- NVQ Training 'Supporting Users of the Night-time Economy' which has just completed a trial in the Tees Valley cluster of projects. This is accredited training by Open College Network and will be particularly beneficial to younger volunteers or those seeking employment (Halifax Street Angels has seen 14 volunteers in 7 years gain employment because of the role they played within Street Angels).
- Social Media and Your Organisation has seen over 200 organisations and small businesses trained in use of social media and how to achieve maximum results from its use.
- An Education Resource is about to be launched which can be used in schools and to young people groups and informs around alcohol, safety with stories and scenarios around the frontline work on the streets.
- MakingTheDifference.tv is a TV programme we record from time to time to tell the story of local projects and partners. This resource helps local projects to gain publicity with the video available on-line for sharing on web and social media.

Our vision is to offer the OCN training to every project and help hundreds receive a qualification. We want to see the education resource used as a way of impacting young people that will change views on drinking and safety. We would like to see MakingTheDifference.tv aired on a TV channel and prompt those not engaged in volunteering to become engaged.

Love Your Streets:

Love Your Streets was launched on Valentines weekend 2011 to tie in with the launch of Beeston Street Angels, Nottingham. The concept was picked up by several media and so a web and social media campaign was started to encourage people in community social action.

The idea took off and at Valentines weekend and Lent 2012 we launched #Do1NiceThing to encourage people to do one nice thing each and every day during Lent. This was used as a Lent campaign by several church denominations and was featured in several media.

Recently we have linked with the legacy around the National Day of Prayer at Wembley working with Neighbourhood Prayer Network and UCB aiming at promoting community action and prayer. Part of this is linking with black majority churches in London to merge Love Your Streets and Adopt-a-Street including a drive to see every street in the UK covered in prayer and action.

Love Your Streets - #Do1NiceThing is an organic initiative that is aimed at encouraging everyone everywhere to do nice things for other people.

Our vision is for every street in the UK to have someone who is committed to positive social action and care within that neighbourhood. #Do1NiceThing is something everyone can do and we will continue to promote it and use it.