

Bedford Street Angel Patrol Volunteer

Role Description

The role is being prepared to give support to those who are vulnerable in the night-time economy.

A Bedford Street Angel Patrol Volunteer may be required to undertake a range of tasks, dependent on the situation.

Volunteers work in mixed-gender teams of three and in some situations one person may be better suited to the task in hand than another.

The patrol team has a patrol base where the team assembles before the patrol, has a mid-session rest break and debriefs afterwards.

Preparation

- ❖ Commit to a patrol 'slot' as far in advance as possible and 'stick to it' if at all possible- a late cancellation causes disruption and may mean that a patrol has to be cancelled, which destroys the whole purpose of Bedford Street Angels.
- ❖ If cancellation during the week preceding the patrol is unavoidable, please contact Stephen Elphick, Chairman asap (07590 453282).
- ❖ Assemble at the patrol base at 10.00pm.
- ❖ Wear a BSA jacket or anorak and a BSA ID badge.
- ❖ Make you sure you have a pair of disposable gloves from a rucksack in your pocket.
- ❖ Give an emergency contact number for the evening/night to the Team Leader.
- ❖ Participate in briefing and prayer prior to the street patrol.
- ❖ Take instruction from the team leader in how the evening will work and who will partner whom.

Street Patrol

- ❖ Be part of the street team working in cooperation with police, door staff, taxi marshals, paramedics and other agencies, but independent of them so as to be able to be impartial.
- ❖ Listen to those who want to talk, offering support to those that are distressed or upset.
- ❖ Seek to help those who are isolated or separated from friends.
- ❖ Provide wet-wipes and/or water for those who may have been sick, and flip-flops to those whose shoes have failed them in some way.
- ❖ Offer assistance to those who may have suffered violence or been affected by it.

- ❖ Only volunteers that have undergone a recognised course in first aid and hold a current certificate should administer it to others (as required by our insurance company).
- ❖ Seek to listen and speak to those who may have been refused entry into venues in order to calm potentially aggressive situations.
- ❖ Support those who have become vulnerable to find taxis or to wait until lifts arrive.
- ❖ It is the official policy of Bedford Street Angels not to pay for taxi fares, give lifts or walk people home (to protect volunteers and BSA from risk of false allegation). However the Team Leader may contact the Police for help/advice, or be able to make arrangements with taxi drivers for transport in an emergency.
- ❖ Pick up bottles and glass and dispose of safely.

Throughout the patrol

- ❖ On the streets, volunteers need to act with professionalism, treating everyone we meet with respect in a non-judgmental and unconditional manner. Respect, confidentiality and impartiality should be maintained at all times.
- ❖ Do not damage the goodwill of all the nighttime economy towards Bedford Street Angels by any unwise 'gossip' about particular pubs, clubs, etc.
- ❖ Bedford Street Angels is a Christian initiative by the churches of the area. Prayer is an important part of our preparation and activity. We are not a means to recruit new members to our churches or to proselytise. Volunteers will be able to share their faith and what motivates them, in response to questions or as part of a natural conversation with contacts. It is principally through our actions that our values are communicated.
- ❖ We recognize that volunteers can sometimes encounter difficult situations. Volunteers should never endanger themselves or others through their actions. We do not expect patrol volunteers to intervene in violent situations. However, when making a decision, volunteers should listen to other members of the team and take instruction from the team leader for each night.

After Patrol

- ❖ Be prepared to participate in a short debrief after the street patrol, including praying for significant contacts and recording conversations/incidents.
- ❖ Return BSA jackets, anoraks and ID badges.
- ❖ Help clear up patrol base ensuring the appropriate spaces are neat and tidy for Sunday morning.

TJM/03.03.11/17.10.11