

light
project
peterborough

Revealing Jesus

Annual Review 2021-2022



Welcome from the Chair of Trustees, Chris Walford



It is such an honour and blessing to be involved with the work of Light Project Peterborough. Over the past number of years, we have grown much to respond to the needs of some of the most troubled folks in our city.

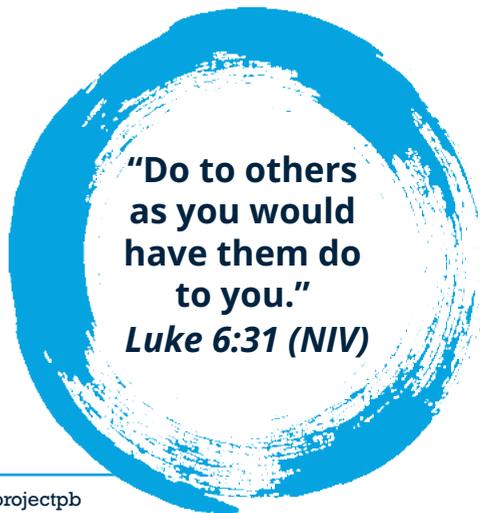
With amazing staff, volunteers, and partners we work with, I truly believe we have had made a difference over the last year to many, many people in real need. On behalf of all the Light Project Peterborough trustees I'd like to express how immensely proud we are of the professionalism and passion of all involved in our work.

I am particularly pleased that not only do we deliver some amazing projects, but we enable others to think about how they help the poor, and equip them to get involved. We are committed to serving the city wherever we can to make it a better place for all.

I do hope you are encouraged by what you read on the following pages and on behalf of all at Light Project Peterborough thank you for your support, prayers, and encouragement.

With many, many blessings,

Chris



The 'Everyone In' Initiative

Early 2020 the Light Project Peterborough team were asked to be part of leading and delivering Peterborough's 'Everyone In' initiative for people sleeping on the streets. This important piece of work was put in place to reduce the spread of the Covid 19 virus as all hands were put to the pumps to ensure the most vulnerable in society were protected from infection and transmission.

Due to the excellent relationships the team have with people sleeping on the streets, within a day 25 people, within 4 days 50 people, and within a week over 80 people who were on the streets were being supported with food, warmth, love and wrap around services from staff, volunteers and partner organisations in local hotels.

The initiative was in place from 27th March 2020 all the way through to 11th May 2021, 410 continuous days and nights of investing in helping those in need, and the city to be as safe as possible through the pandemic.

It was a very busy time for us! But a special time. New friends were made, and many lives were changed for the better. A hot shower, a warm bed and 3 meals a day were all in place. Acceptance, love from staff, partners and volunteers involved was seen everyday leaving an imprint in many people's hearts to fulfil the great potential they have.



The Garden House

The Garden House is the front door to help anyone who is sleeping on the streets of Peterborough find a home and connect to important support services.

237
people
supported to
move off the
streets

During this period 405 people presented to us as sleeping on the streets. Some people have just left the care system, some are fleeing modern slavery and some have lost their jobs. There are many different reasons why people end up on the streets and we see people with many different histories and life stories.

Helping people feel well and better about themselves is important to all of us and we regularly facilitate haircuts, podiatry, arts workshops, NHS health care and much more.



We encourage and challenge partner organisations wherever possible to join together to put those in need at the centre of our work. We host other organisations and offer hot desks for them to work from, it is one big family of support we invest a lot of time in to keep in place. Strong partnerships are in place with such as Peterborough City Council Housing Needs team, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Aspire (CGL).

840
different
people
supported

did you know?

“

We partner with Cambridgeshire Constabulary to host their important work Operation Luscombe. Acting as a hub for Peterborough this initiative brings partners together to support people in moving away from begging activities.

”

“Two years ago, I was sleeping rough, dependent on drugs and alcohol, in an abusive relationship and my mum had just passed away. I came to the Garden House for some help and advice, and it saved my life.

The support workers made me feel so welcome and the rest of the team have been fantastic, too! They listened to me, understood, for that, I am eternally grateful. They helped me to find accommodation, made me feel part of a family and I'm so much happier now. They believed in me which made me slowly start to believe in myself again.

I love Light Project Peterborough so much that last year I started volunteering for them at the Garden House to give something back and help support others. I want to show people that if I can get through the dark times, anyone can. I've now completed my work with Aspire, my level one of Health and Social Care and I have regular contact with my children.

I just want to thank the staff and volunteers again – I can't thank them enough for what they've done for me – they gave me hope and allowed me to become the person I have always wanted to be.” - Cara



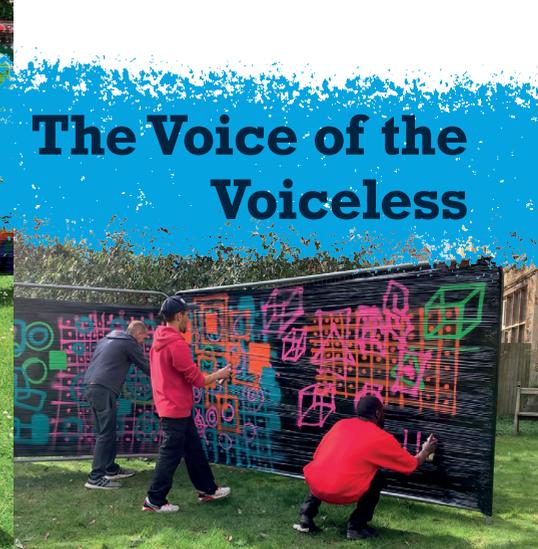
Peterborough Multi-Agency Floating Support Team

Over the course of the 'Everyone In' initiative it was evident that much resource and energy was being put into helping lots of people move off the streets. It was important to the Light Project Peterborough team to ensure that these resources and energy was not wasted, and that people did not return to the streets.

In partnership with Peterborough City Council, Cross Keys Homes, and the Longhurst Group we set up the Peterborough Multi Agency Floating Support Team. Leading a partnership team of 9 people was an exciting venture. The importance of working together and sharing knowledge and skills across organisations to help people keep their new homes was evident.

The target of the project was to support 100 people who had moved into new homes but over the course of the work 186 people were supported, amazing team work! Helping people with benefits and employment, engaging with health services, building good relationships with landlords, digital access and much more the team were active at all times of the day and week to give people the best chance possible of not losing their homes. The project ended in July 2021 and of the 186 people supported 179 were still in their homes!

186
people supported
179
people still in their homes



The Voice of the Voiceless

An exciting piece of work we started this year was our 'Experts by Experience' group. If you have had struggles in life, you are in a great position to turn these experiences round for the good of others. Some of the experts we are working with have had experiences of sleeping on the streets, drug addiction, family breakdown or poor mental and with our help and their perseverance have managed to turn things around.

One of the things we love to see is where we have helped someone, they then want to help others. This can be with us or with other groups or people, it really does not matter. If we all do our bit, we can make each other's lives just that little bit better.

Through this project we now have a group of experts who are answering and responding to the question 'From our experiences how can we really change the lives of those who are struggling?'. Often when you are at rock bottom you can feel isolated and marginalised, not being listened to. The group is acting as the 'Voice of the Voiceless' and is an important part of our work to heal hearts and set people free.

Group members are undertaking outreach onto the streets, putting on gardening and creative workshops, helping people one to one and getting involved in social change through informing policy and speaking on the media. These ideas are worked up with the group, who we know have the knowledge and experiences to really make a difference.

"Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:9 (ESV)



Volunteering makes a difference!

4351
volunteering
hours
mobilised
across
2021/22

Without volunteers Light Project Peterborough would not be as it is. Enabling and equipping volunteers is an integral part of the work of the charity and wherever possible we want to join with others to make our city a better place.

Volunteering hours across this period totalled 4351 with 37 people working with us directly. Volunteers join with us for different reasons.

People that support us are retired, having a work break, recovering from life challenges, looking to improve skills and make friends but all are looking to give something back to those in need.

During this period volunteers joined with us at the Garden House, as Chaplains, on the Everyone In Initiative, with Telephone Support and much more...we even have a monthly cleaning team who make our building nice for everyone to work from!

£38,767.41
cost
contribution to
the city (based
on the National
Living Wage)

Chaplaincy work has been undertaken by volunteers in the city since 2009. The work has been long serving and volunteers have a real passion to reach out to those who are lonely, troubled and need some gentle reassurance.

The pandemic placed a real pressure on much chaplaincy work across the city to stand down, including Light Project Peterborough's City Centre Chaplaincy project. Quite rightly it was important to be guided by government guidance and act accordingly.

However, this gave a great opportunity to work with volunteers and partners to consider the best plans to move forward. During this time the Light



Project Peterborough team worked closely with Peterborough Street Pastors and agreed to set up a new project, Street Chaplains.

We are now taking forward the Street Chaplains project, building teams to go out in the day and night time and have great excitement about how this work will develop.

When you move into a new home it can often take time to get settled. Volunteers really stepped up to the mark on this and worked with us to offer telephone support. A friend on the end of the phone once or twice a week and an encouraging voice is really important when trying to start afresh, and this project has seen some wonderful stories of change happening. One person is now working towards their driving licence, another has made friends and is attending a local church, and another is moving onto sheltered accommodation looking forward to overcoming loneliness by being part of a community.

We endeavour to listen to our volunteers with regular training, consultation activities and feedback. We provide direct support with a dedicated staff member and put on activities to celebrate the kindness that is shown. We hope that volunteering with us is not only meaningful, but fun as well!

did you know?



We facilitate the Peterborough Chaplaincy Forum supporting chaplains in a range of different settings to help their important work.



"At the beginning of 2019 I found myself in hospital with liver failure due to alcoholism. Six months later I was recovering and doing well but I knew I had to keep myself occupied. I began to volunteer with Light Project Peterborough a few days every week to give me something meaningful to do and as soon as I started, I felt like I was at home straight away. It's such a loving atmosphere, nobody judges anybody else, and it feels like a united family. Light Project Peterborough has helped me just as much as I help others. It's provided me with focus and reconnected me with my faith. It is a place filled with love, goodwill and compassion and I have been blessed to meet some of the loveliest people on the planet. I'm now going to work as a Recovery Co-ordinator for one of Light Project Peterborough's partners, Aspire and will always come and visit the people at Light Project Peterborough - they will always have a special place in my heart." - Darren



Health Support

An important part of our work within the city is for the health of some its most vulnerable people. These are exciting times for us as we have been working with the NHS and the County Clinical Commissioning Group to lead on putting in place a Health Hub for the Homeless. Over 2021/22 there has been lots of planning, including receiving support from NHS Charities Together and the Addenbrookes Charitable Trust. The vision is that the health hub will be open for business late 2022.



This has built on our work to ensure that more people have access to health care. This can sometimes seem a daunting process when you haven't got the stability of a home, an address, or the ability to travel to appointments. You may even be embarrassed or fearful about cleanliness or undealt with health needs. This facility is being co-produced with the people it will support and there is much excitement about the potential to increase health outcomes for some of those most in need.

Being on the edges of society does influence general wellbeing. Regular registrations of those we help to get a GP, support to engage with physical consultations and procedures and engagement with mental health services where needed are all in place by the Light Project Peterborough team.

We were particularly pleased to be asked to contribute to reduce the impact of the pandemic and improve equality of access to all by delivering Lateral Flow Tests and hosting vaccination sessions.

1114
Lateral
Flow Tests
delivered in
the city

Education, Employment and Training



Having something to do is important and all of us at Light Project Peterborough have a mindset that everyone has great potential to succeed. Over the year we have had a great partnership with Reed Recruitment helping people into training and employment and continue to explore ways of helping people furthest away from the employment world.

We ran a pilot project 'Stepping Stones' in partnership with Peterborough College JobSmart and Peterborough City Council Environmental team to help people on the edges of employment acquire more skills through creative workshops, studies for certification and physical activity at a local allotment.

This is an area we are always seeking ways to develop further. This could be more links to employers such as Mick George who have offered employment with accommodation, providing more workshops and opportunities to inspire and train the amazing people we support, and/or developing a social enterprise.

did you know?

We run Across Peterborough, a website and monthly newsletter to support churches and communities to communicate their amazing work.

"3 years ago I found myself on the streets. My thirteen-year-old relationship had ended, my dad had died, I got made redundant and lost my accommodation. My friend contacted Light Project Peterborough on my behalf and since that day they have helped me no end.

Stepping Stones has allowed me to meet a new group of people who are so lovely and friendly. We've only been doing it for a few weeks now, but it's really brought me out of my shell and allowed me to be myself again." - Kev



Peterborough Night Shelter

The Peterborough Night Shelter is an exciting project that was built off the back of the Peterborough Winter Night Shelter. The Peterborough Winter Night Shelter was an exciting initiative that due to the pandemic restrictions had to end early 2020. During the 2019/20 season the Peterborough Winter Night Shelter project worked with 15 church communities to open their doors to people sleeping on the streets.

It was important to the Light Project Peterborough team that these strong community activities and links were not lost and continued to be supported. Some hard work was undertaken with Homeless Link and the UK government to build on this important emergency, immediate accommodation.

Across the year partnerships were continued with Southside Methodist Church, Peterborough International Christian Centre and Christ the Carpenter Dogsthorpe. We started this project on February 11th 2022 and up until the end of March 2022 provided 143 emergency bed nights to help people quickly move off the streets. These amazing church communities have been hosting and creating welcoming and warm beds for the night. A warm shower and toilet, clean bedding and toiletries and daily food support is all offered to guests.

An important part of this work is for the Light Project Peterborough project team to help people progress into more permanent accommodation through action plans and multi-agency support. Working with partners on this referral and move on is a key part of making this project a success.

143
bed nights
provided



Supporters

Our work at Light Project Peterborough could not exist without our many funders and supporters. We work hard to bring investment into the city from grant funders and meet regularly with churches and community groups to talk about our work. Support ranges from food and meals to professional advice in kind, funds to pay the bills as one offs and monthly regular donors. There are too many supporters to mention but here's just a few over the year, and to all a BIG BIG thank you!

- Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
- Bennetts Motorbike Insurance
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Peterborough City Council
- Kingsgate Community Church
- Peterborough Soup Kitchen
- Brookside Methodist Church
- Homeless Link
- The Three Pillars
- Nationwide Building Society
- Clarion Housing Group
- Architectural Heritage Fund
- The National Literacy Trust
- NHS Charities Together and...



"The staff and volunteers at Light Project Peterborough turned my life around and I couldn't be happier now. Thank you for everything you did for me and continue to do for some many people!" - Aaron

Aaron was sleeping on the streets of the embankment for 8 months before he came to us to seek support. He's now been in employment and accommodation for the past 3 years and came to visit us recently to say a big thank you and kindly gifted us a donation of support for our work.

the community restaurants and chefs that supported the work of the 'Everyone In' initiative, everyone who set up a personal Just Giving fundraising event, our regular monthly donors and the constant day to day food deliveries from people for the Garden House!

Quotes of support

"Steven and his team do so much of the hard work with some of the most vulnerable in our city. I regularly catch up with Steven and always leave inspired by the quality of his work, his vision, his wisdom and care for those who have found themselves disinherited by society! I also love the way he is always trying to weave the churches into the fabric of his outreach."

Ed Walker – Founder and Executive Director Hope into Action



"It is an absolute privilege to be able to offer a few lines about the incredible work that Light Project Peterborough continue to deliver in our city. Working at the sharp end of homelessness, the staff, volunteers, and supporters have turned around the lives of hundreds of people. These same people now have hope, optimism, and opportunity, thanks to the strength of support, determination and resilience shown by Light Project Peterborough. The organisation continues to be one of our most vital and valued partners, brilliantly led by Steven and his trustees, and we are looking forward to many more years together of innovation, imagination, and hard work."

Adrian Chapman - Executive Director Place and Economy Peterborough City Council



"The outstanding work of Light Project Peterborough is something that we at the Cathedral both recognise and esteem. We've been especially proud to have been able to support and work with LPP's Garden House project and to see the transformative work that the team have done in the lives of so many vulnerable people in this City, not least during the pandemic - Christian compassion and practical action linked in service of the poor."

The Very Revd Chris Dalliston - Dean of Peterborough Cathedral



"Prevention and supporting victims and witnesses of crime are key pillars within my Police and Crime Plan and it is clear that Light Project Peterborough are working hard in these areas, supporting some of our most vulnerable communities. My thanks to Steven and his great team for their contribution in keeping us all safe."

Darryl Preston – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Commissioner



CEO reflections



One of the things that really touched me this year was the passing away of two of our most amazing friends, Carlo and Laurus. They were both amazing people full of love and hope.

Carlo was dearly loved for his strength and his straight to the point way with people. But, I will most fondly remember him through the faith he had found in God and that he showed

this by helping as many people as he could. Carlo was an active chaplain and a volunteer at the Garden House. He is truly missed.

Laurus was a 'gentle giant' we had helped many times. He passed away hidden from site in a bush! This was a really sad time for all, but we were able to celebrate his life by arranging his funeral. Too many people are alone and isolated, without homes or the warmth of community and we are resolute that this is not acceptable.

I get to work with amazing staff, volunteers, supporters and partners and truly believe we are making a difference. Love and hope can be seen on a daily basis, and this coming year will be no different. Thank you for taking the time to consider our work.

In love and peace,

Steven

“

We facilitate a network with over 70 Christian leaders to enhance communication, share learning and improve support for those in need – Peterborough Christians for Social Action.

”

**"The poor and the homeless won't always be forgotten and without hope."
Psalm 9:18 (CEV)**



Our Vision:

To enable and equip the church and community to heal the broken-hearted, set free the oppressed, and bring good news to the poor.



To donate and support us in our work, just scan the QR code or contact us, details below

Light Project Peterborough

The Garden House
Gravel Walk
Minster Precincts
Peterborough PE1 1YU

Registered Charity No. 1159764



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