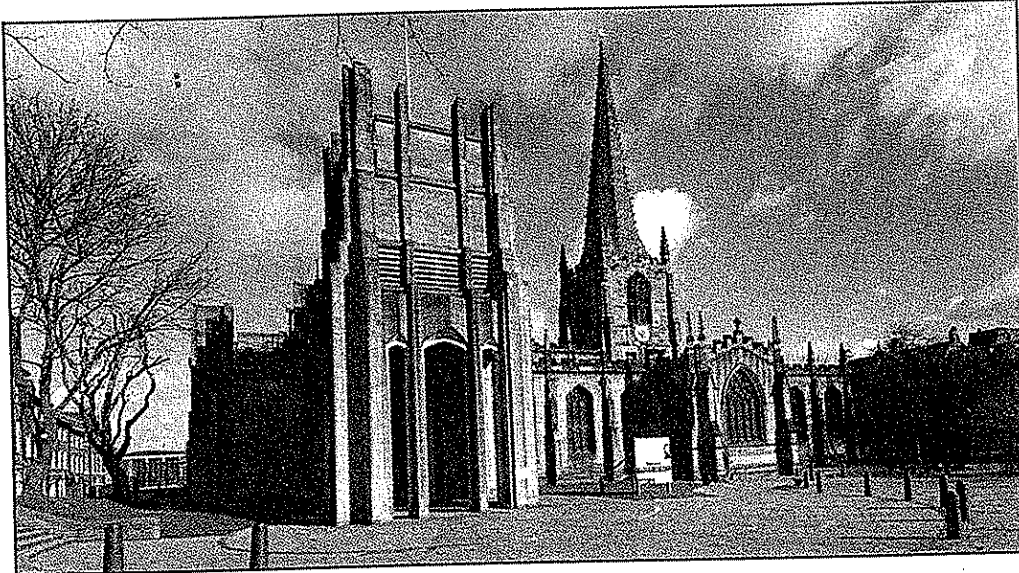


STREET LIGHTS

VENDOR AND HOMELESSNESS NEWS

Stars in their eyes



The Big Sleep Out takes place at Sheffield Cathedral

Sheffield's Kickstart Community Programmes and Cathedral Archer Project will be joining forces to raise funds in a novel way next month. The Big Sleep Out will be a fundraising event that aims to help raise awareness of rough sleeping by allowing participants to spend a night in someone else's shoes and sleep under the stars in the city.

For a minimum sponsorship of £100 per person, a place can be reserved on Sheffield Cathedral's forecourt to take part. For their contribution, participants can

well as generate much needed income. "Along with promoting awareness of rough sleeping, the night will help raise the profile of our two charities and highlight the good work that we are doing," she said.

The Cathedral Archer Project, having moved premises in March, is just beginning to feel the benefits of the extra capacity available at the new building. Existing services on offer include free breakfasts, subsidised lunches, numeracy and literacy classes, healthcare and

enthusiastic about the event but recognises that the Big Sleep Out experience can only give a limited picture of the hardship rough sleepers face.

"The night intends to raise awareness and give people an idea of what it's like to sleep rough," she said. "From a homeless person's perspective, it's not going to scratch the surface of what it's like. It's about businesses and anybody else that's interested coming to find out a bit more and raising some money into the bargain."

"The night intends to raise awareness and give people an idea of what it's like to sleep rough."

expect secure storage of personal belongings, access to toilets and changing rooms, hot drinks throughout the night, homemade hot soup for supper and a cooked breakfast to wake up to. ID bracelets will be issued to all those taking part and staff will be on hand to keep a secure watch.

The money raised by the event will be evenly split between the two charities and will help towards providing for and supporting approximately 125 vulnerable people in Sheffield every day. Tracy Viner, fundraising manager at the Cathedral Archer Project, believes the night will draw attention to the conditions rough sleepers face, as

dentistry, laundering and shower use. A gardening group has been recently introduced and cooking classes are in the offing. Staff at The Big Issue in the North's Sheffield office can readily attest to the good work of the Cathedral Archer Project. They share the same building, and have worked in close partnership for the last five years.

Kickstart Community Programmes is an organisation that aims to help people overcome the effects of substance misuse by offering a community-based rehabilitation programme. Kickstart's fundraising and events manager, Lucinda White, is

The announcement of the event comes in the wake of fresh speculation regarding the reliability of the official rough sleeper count. Sheffield City Council estimates that, as at June 2006, there were 11 people sleeping rough in Sheffield on any single night. However, local agencies intimate that the scale of the problem is likely to be larger than the official figures suggest. Nevertheless, Sheffield's homeless agencies continue in their efforts to address the problem.

The Big Sleep Out will take place on 4 September. If you would like to take part, please contact Tracy Viner on 0114 2636973.

THE BIG ISSUE IN THE NORTH

VENDOR CODE OF CONDUCT

All vendors selling The Big Issue in the North must abide by the Code of Conduct, the set of rules governing how they work. Outreach teams from The Big Issue in the North patrol the streets daily to check vendors' behaviour and to encourage and support them while working. Here are some of the key rules:

1. Vendors can only sell on designated pitches organised by The Big Issue in the North.
2. Vendors cannot sell between 8pm and 7am. Police officers have the authority to confiscate magazines and badges if they witness vendors selling during these hours.
3. Vendors must always wear their own badge when buying or selling the magazine and only sell magazines with their number on.
4. Vendors can only buy magazines for themselves.
5. Vendors must not use physical or verbal aggression towards members of the public or other vendors.
6. Vendors are not allowed to sell if staff feel they are unfit to do so.
7. Vendors must stand when selling; sitting down is an obstruction to the public highway and is illegal.
8. Vendors must not beg for money using the magazine. Asking for spare change or other items is considered to be begging.
9. Vendors can only charge £1.50 for each magazine and must always give the customer the magazine once paid for. Failing to do so is fraudulent and may result in police involvement.

To comment on vendor behaviour, please call...

Manchester: 0161 831 5570

Liverpool: 0151 702 6931

Leeds: 0113 243 9077

GOOD HOMES, GOOD JOBS, GOOD HEALTH, GOOD LIFE

The Big Issue in the North-Trust raises funds to provide services for homeless vendors of this magazine.