

The following protocol covers the agreed sequence of events in recruiting and training Chepstow Street Pastors.

First Stage - Observer

Anyone who feels they are called to be a Street Pastor will be invited to go out on a patrol as an Observer. A minimum of 2 Observer sessions is suggested to get a feel for what is involved and to see if they feel they are suited before they fill in forms, are interviewed or commit to training.

These 2 Observer patrols will count as 1 Core Training Module.

Second Stage - Forms

There are quite a few forms to be submitted. These are required by the Ascension Trust (who operate Street Pastors) and cover the following:

- Application Form – includes name & address, contact details, uniform size, which church you belong to, Christian history (optional), medical problems that may affect this job.
You will need to send this form back to our Co-ordinator.
- Confidential Declaration Form - Under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 Exceptions) Order 1975 the age range you will be working with includes what is defined as a 'vulnerable' group and this means that you are exempt from the Act and can be asked to declare any previous criminal convictions including 'spent' convictions. This information can then be used as a basis for deciding whether or not you are suitable to work with the age range group. The disclosure of an offence will not necessarily be a bar to your appointment. Failure to disclose criminal convictions may result in the termination of your services. This form is strictly confidential and, except under compulsion of law, will be seen only by those responsible for the appointment and, when appropriate, the Street Pastors Child Protection Officer. All forms will be kept securely under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.
You will need to send this form back to our Co-ordinator.
- Reference Forms – 2 Referees are needed and 1 must be the Minister/Pastor/Leader of the church you currently attend and cover questions such as:
 - What is your relationship to the applicant?
 - How long have you known them?
 - How long have they attended your Church?
 - Please comment briefly on their spiritual growth & development.
 - Do you recommend them for Street Pastor Ministry — and why?
 - How do you envisage the applicant benefitting from this Ministry, and how might that impact your Church and the local community?
 - Please comment on their strengths, weaknesses, ability to work as part of a team, and initiative & anything else which might be of help.

You will need to send these forms to your chosen Referees who will then send them directly to our Co-ordinator.

- Volunteer Agreement - this agreement tells you what to expect from us, and what we hope for from you.

Third Stage - Interview

When all the forms and the references have been received an interview will be arranged. This will be with 2 Management Committee members and follows a set pattern of questions we ask of every applicant.

Acceptance or rejection is ONLY given after recommendations are taken back to the Management Committee and agreed.

Fourth Stage – DBS checks

If you already have a CRB or DBS Certificate which covers other work in the church then a copy should be sent to our Co-ordinator. A new DBS application must be made for working as a Street Pastor but you will be able to go out on patrol before it is received. Website - <http://www.dbschecks.co.uk/>

If you do not have a current CRB or DBS certificate, then one must be applied for and received BEFORE you can go out on patrol.

Fifth Stage - Training

It is implicitly understood that everyone applying to be a Street Pastor is committed to doing all the training and will make every effort to attend all sessions arranged. If Chepstow training is missed there are other local groups also running training sessions and you will be offered places at their training sessions.

Some modules require a half day or evening to run and some require a full day (usually a Saturday) because 2 or 3 modules are included in that category. Each Street Pastor is expected to complete all the modules within the first year. The number of modules included in a category is represented by the figure in brackets after each category :
Observer (1), Roles & Responsibilities (2), First Aid (1), Police (1), Mental Health (2), Substance Abuse (3), Listening Skills (1), Sociology (1), Good News & Knowing Your Community (1), Youth Culture (1),

Currently there are 8 core modules, some of which are “live” talks, some for which we use DVD’s of previous training sessions and a new module of 2 Observer sessions on patrol.

Core modules:

- Observer on street (practical experience on 2 nights) – 1 module - accompanying 2 different patrol teams
- Roles & Responsibilities (live talk) – counts as 2 modules which are delivered by an Ascension Trust Trainer and are absolutely essential before a Street Pastor is allowed out on patrol (other than as an Observer)
- First Aid (live talk) – 2 modules – we use the same trainer to ensure we are all doing the same thing
- Police (available on DVD) – 1 module
- Mental Health (available on DVD) – 2 modules

DVD talks – we are building a library of DVD’s which are run by a member of the Management Committee who acts as the Facilitator in the interactive sections. We plan to record all future training sessions with the exception of the modules listed above as “live” talks.

Uniform will normally be ordered after you have done 6 modules and you will be able to join patrols as a Street Pastor after you have completed 8 core sessions but on the understanding that you complete all training within a year. It costs £300 to train and uniform a Street Pastor and we invite a contribution of £50 per person towards this cost.