

Outside Light

BUSINESS PLAN – FIRST DRAFT

July 2009

Introduction:

Outside Light is a limited Company unashamedly founded in Jesus Christ and firmly rooted in him, with clear Christian intent and purpose. It will, shortly, apply to the Charity Commission for formal charitable status. This Business Plan is intended to give details of the organisation and to confirm its aims and objectives for the next three years.

The prime purpose of this document is to communicate the overall need and vision for Outside Light, and to identify the resources that will be required to meet these.

Outside Light currently has no operational premises of its own as the work primarily takes place outside, on the streets (presently) of Old Woking and Knaphill. It is envisioned that in the coming three years the areas of operation will expand to meet the needs of people living in other parts of Woking as well. Hopefully this will be enabled by other churches adopting the vision, objectives, policies, insurance cover, brand and marketing as they are developed by Outside Light.

Brief History and Establishment of Need and Purpose:

Outside Light was formerly known as The Gloster Road Group; an outreach project born of the New Life Church in Westfield, Woking, where work began in 2003, and which was primarily designed to reach young people on the streets of a large council estate that lies near to that church, in neighbouring Old Woking.

Ice-breaking is a first step in building any relationship; a bike-mending project proved to be particularly successful at this, and relationships were further developed over a period of some three and a half years, through nearly every week of the year visiting the Gloster Road area and meeting with young people living there and their families. Activities include(d) playing sport with them; one-to-one help with reading/etc in some cases; provision of food and drink, and general help wherever need was/is identified.

Who we Serve, and Why

The young people reached were/are generally society's non-joiners. In common with many young people throughout the United Kingdom they often experience poor relationship with parents/teachers and police; mirroring the results discovered through various national and international studies, including those undertaken by the Princes' Trust, *appendix a*, The New Economics Foundation, *appendix b*, and UNICEF, *appendix c*. Consequently, many young people spend their time predominantly on the streets and mainly within peer groups, with little or no adult contact. There is, therefore, a perceived danger that they then, as a result, are at risk of isolation from their mainstream community and instead are likely to form their own community, with self-made rules and questionable values. There is also strong evidence that many of them are extremely unhappy as individuals, with the potential to develop long-term mental health problems.

The Project sought to interrupt the pattern of peer-group communities that were forming with no adult intervention or involvement. A prime objective of the Project was to show these young people that they are valued by caring adults within mainstream society; and in particular to have demonstrated to them the benefit there would be to them in their eventual adoption of Christian values.



Recently, Surrey Police said that since Outside Light had been operating in Knaphill there had been a reduction in crime when the figures were compared to the previous year. There had been a drastic reduction in the number of times police had been called to the area, young people who had previously been on the Police' radar are now thought of as 'low risk'.

Growth into Other Areas

The work expanded into Knaphill in April 2008 as the result of people from other churches in St John's and Knaphill joining The Gloster Road Group as volunteers. Because of this and as a consequence of the vision and prayer that work would expand into other areas, it was felt inappropriate to continue operating as the project of one church alone, and so the decision was made to cease The Gloster Road Group and commence a new stand-alone project called Outside Light. This was then set up as a limited company, but with the continuing support of New Life Church and now with the growing support of other churches too. The five initial Trustees-Directors of the project comprise people from New Life Church, St John's Church and Holy Trinity Church, Knaphill. As other churches join us, there will be the opportunity for additional Trustee-Directors to join the Board as necessary.

Different Needs between Cell-Group Locations

Between the areas presently served, (Old Woking and Knaphill), there are differing identifiable needs, cultural and educational: in Old Woking, for example, there are young people who are unable to read or write; those as young as 17 who are single parents; and those with criminal records. Some are from broken homes, with parents who face extreme challenges. Whilst in Knaphill, there are numerous young people who claim to 'not really know' their parents because they 'never see them'. Many of the young use drugs, sex and alcohol to fill a gap that they cannot easily define that they feel in their lives. Outside Light sees that gap as one that is spiritual in nature. As Outside Light develops into additional areas, it is envisaged that further needs will be identified and that Outside Light will need to look for ways to adapt to and respond to those.

Development Into Drop-In Premises

In the winter of last year (2008) Outside Light had made available to it, kindly by the Trustees of The King's House in Knaphill, evening use of the cafe premises there as a drop-in for young people. Starting with just three young lads the number of young people quickly grew to around thirty, which was about equal to the full capacity of the premises.

In April of this year (2009), Outside Light joined in support of a project that was set up by Knaphill Residents' Association to provide premises at The Vyne Community Centre, larger than those of The King's House, for young people to use as a drop-in resource on Monday evenings. This will, we feel, come into its own during the colder months of the year. In the past there has been the tendency for young people, when it is dark, to make nuisance for residents of nearby houses as they congregate in the car park that lies adjacent to homes, under the lights there. But, hopefully, use of The Vyne Community Centre will help prevent this from happening again, because this modern indoor facility should prove a more attractive place to visit than the car park. The majority of Outside Light volunteers during the lighter evenings continue to visit the Vyne playing field on Monday evenings, while usually one OL volunteer at least, helps the KRA inside. In addition, Outside Light promoted



application to the Youth Opportunities Fund, by young people, for £10,000+ funding to light the Multi-Use-Games Area (MUGA), so that this would be able to be used by them after dark.

Thanks

Outside Light was kindly assisted in its formation and registration of the Limited Company by Robbins Olivey, solicitors, acting as advisors.

Mission Statement:

“Taking light into dark places” Taking Jesus’ love into the world.

Values:

- To act in accordance with Christian biblical principles, (and in particular Christ’s teaching to feed the hungry, provide for the thirsty, clothe the poor and look after the sick).
- To at all times act with absolute integrity and professionalism, particularly but not exclusively in the area of child protection.
- The belief that strong community arises from the development of positive inter-generational relationships and mutual respect, together with the establishment of recognised Christian values.
- The belief that only Jesus has the ability, perfect love and power to fill the gap that many people experience in their lives, which instead they often try to fill with drugs, sex, alcohol and worse.
- The belief that the Bible calls on Christians to reach out to the world with the Gospel , and that souls are saved and lives are changed when Christians honour and respond to this call.

Vision/Aims:

Outside Light exists:

- to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world.
- initially to use food and sport as a means to enable/develop contact with young people (8-18) of all faiths and none, and their families. A long-term vision is to have sufficient volunteers to develop trusting age-focussed activity-focussed relationship with people across all age groups, 3-11, 11-18, (Generation X) 18-30 and upwards.
- to build bridges between disparate groups before they become separate communities.
- to help young people especially, but not exclusively, through leisure time activities, so as to develop their capabilities that they may grown to full maturity as individuals and members of society.



- to act as a resource for people living in Woking, Surrey and other parts of the United Kingdom and the world by providing spiritual support, advice and assistance and organising programmes of spiritual, physical, educational and other activities as a means of:
 - a) advancing life and helping people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
 - b) advancing education
 - c) advancing spiritual development
 - d) providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty of social and economic or spiritual circumstances, with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

Additional Aims:

- to encourage inter-denominational cooperation; and be recognised as a true expression of the power there is in **Christians of all denominations working as one holy catholic and apostolic church.**
- to encourage the Christian growth of volunteers who are close to receiving faith and who are on the edges of church, by demonstrating to them Christ in action.
- to demonstrate Christ in action to non-Christians.
- to provide training for volunteers in the areas of working with young people: counselling/mentoring/child-protection/health and safety/First Aid/Food Hygiene etc.
- to provide the opportunity for the kind of Christian fellowship that only arises from trench warfare; fighting together against evil and under God's banner.

Objectives:

- **Present Day:** to demonstrate a relevance to modern society, of Jesus Christ and his church, by doing as Jesus would do, and carrying his love out of the church and into the streets and parks. Continuing to use food and sport to build bridges of trust between Outside Light and those we meet. Holding a minimum of two bbq's per year for each community we serve, and by taking snacks and drinks on a regular basis, as well as being prepared to counsel, affirm and honour those that we serve, regardless of their personal beliefs, age or background. Promoting the Outside Light brand in an identifiable way, through the wearing of uniform, and use of the logo on all written communication.
- **Present day:** through prayer, to develop deep Christian fellowship between all those involved as volunteers in Outside Light, to the point at which we might avow our commitment to one-another and to those we serve.



- **Present day:** to continue writing a regular Internet blog with the purpose of encouraging prayer support, maintaining open communication between Outside Light volunteers, and by encouraging individual volunteers each week to contribute , so that each week there is a report to non-Christians and Christians alike, about how Jesus Christ actively works in peoples' lives.
- **By November 2009:** to develop an Outside Light website with multiple purposes including: Assisting nurture of young people/promoting the work of Outside Light for funding purposes/Encouragement of other churches contemplating joining in with the work/Networking between volunteers including an activities calendar/Repository for all policies and official documents.
- **By June 2010:** at the very least to develop further Outside Light cells in St Johns and Send.
- **By June 2010:** to commence a programme of additional project events similar to the bike-mending project, as will be most relevant to the communities in which we operate.
- **By June 2010:** to commence /participate in a programme of educational and or recreational events, designed to take young people out of their everyday existence and into places of opportunity, where they might be able to develop and be challenged spiritually, educationally, physically and socially.
- **By June 2010:** To obtain funding and provide onward funding for an initially part-time and then full-time outreach worker/evangelist/ambassador with some responsibility also for raising the profile of Outside Light with other churches locally and further afield.
- **By June 2010:** to establish programmes assisting young people with their educational development by offering mentoring and, wherever possible, one-to-one educational assistance.
- **By June 2010:** to assist the development and encouragement of spirituality and awareness of Jesus in everyone we meet by establishing nurture groups
- **By June 2010:** to develop training programmes for volunteers equipping them to a high volunteer standard to deal in a professional way with all demands that are made of them.
- **By February 2011:** at the very least to develop (in addition to the target for June 2010) additional Outside Light cells in Woking town centre, Barnsbury, Westfield and Horsell.
- **Between now and 2011:** to continue the development of personal, working, trusting relationships with the families of the young people we meet outside who are prepared to meet with us.
- **By February 2011:** to employ a full-time outreach worker/evangelist/ambassador with some responsibility also for raising the profile of Outside Light with other churches locally and further afield.



Long-Term Potential (three-years+)

- **Inside-Light** – an extension of Outside Light, focussing on people in prisons, hospitals, schools.
- **Homelessness** – development of projects designed to help those outside, without homes.

Resources Needed to Meet Objectives Over the Coming Three Years

- Funding for food, snacks, sports equipment, away-days and residential courses, training for volunteers, insurances, uniform and equipment, printed materials, explanatory website and a part-time and then full-time Outside Light ambassador/evangelist and manager.
- Volunteers for expansion into other areas and the continuing maintenance of those areas we already serve.
- Prayer support for direction, wisdom, protection and to give thanks for the blessings we have received to date, the relationships we have built, the people we serve, the interest that has been shown in Outside Light by them, and the many relationships that have developed from that interest.

‘God’s heart beats for the streets and when we step OUT THERE our hearts connect with his, and we come alive. It’s like oxygen to a suffocating church and life to a dying world.

Can a nation be changed? When the church is turned inside out it can, without a shadow of doubt.’ *Mark Marx, Street Healer*



Appendix A – Prince’s Trust

One in ten young people do not find life worth living, according to a Prince’s Trust report published on 5th January.

The first large-scale index of its kind offers an alarming insight into an unhappy younger generation, with more than one in ten (12 per cent) feeling that life is meaningless. More than a quarter (27 per cent) of 16 to 25-year-olds admitted they are “often” or “always” down or depressed.

The Prince’s Trust YouGov Youth Index, based on interviews with 2,004 young people across Britain, reveals the state of their lives today and how confident they are about their future.

More than one in four (29 per cent) say they are less happy now than they were as a child and one in five (20 per cent) feels like crying “often” or “always”. Almost half (47 per cent) say they are regularly stressed....

...Working for wellbeing

Young people in the UK are increasingly stressed, depressed and unhappy.

In fact, one in five young people will experience a mental health problem and many more lack confidence, motivation and an effective support network.

Appendix B – New Economics Foundation

British youths are most alienated in Europe, new 'happiness league table' claims

British youths feel more alienated than those in any other European country, according to a new happiness league table.

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Interviews with more than 40,000 people across the continent found that 16- to 24-year-olds in the UK have the lowest levels of trust and belonging Photo: GETTY



Interviews with more than 40,000 people across the continent found that 16- to 24-year-olds in the UK have the lowest levels of trust and belonging. Among adults, only those in Slovakia and Bulgaria felt more isolated and distrustful of others.

Britons are also less likely to be close to their neighbours than anyone else in Europe, with just 42 per cent claiming to feel community spirit. Among young people this figure falls to less than a third.

In addition, UK residents said they had less sense of meaning and engagement with society than those in other countries, although many claimed to be relatively satisfied with their lives.

Overall, Britain is languishing in the bottom half of the European happiness league table created for the first time by the New Economics Foundation, a think tank, by comparing social and personal well-being scores reported by individuals in the European Social Survey.

The UK comes 13th out of 22 countries, below Spain, Cyprus and Belgium, and has some of the worst results among the wealthier Western European states. The league table is topped by Denmark, Norway and Switzerland with Ireland in fifth place.

The New Economics Foundation is calling on the Government to adopt National Accounts of Well-being as a better way to gauge progress and satisfaction than the economic measure of Gross Domestic Product.

It claims "crude increases in income" do not take account of how fairly wealth is distributed, nor the social consequences of growth and change.

The think tank says it is particularly important for ministers to pay more attention to "the things that really matter" as the economy falls into recession.

Nic Marks, founder of the NEF's Centre for Well-being, said: "It is clear that our obsession with GDP has failed to deliver better quality of life for all. We need a better compass to guide us."

"Governments have lost sight of the fact that their fundamental purpose is to improve the lives of their citizens. "Instead they have become obsessed with maximising economic growth to the exclusion of other concerns, ignoring the impact that this has on people's well-being.

"The UK's long hours culture and record levels of personal debt, have squeezed out opportunities for individuals, families and communities to make choices and pursue activities that would best promote personal and social well-being."

Bhutan, a remote mountain kingdom in the Himalayas, is the only country in the world to use a Gross National Happiness scale to monitor how its economic and social development affects its citizens' well-being.

Personal and social well-being ratings:



1 Denmark	7 Austria	13 UK	19 Hungary
2 Norway	8 Spain	14 Slovenia	20 Bulgaria
3 Switzerland	9 Netherlands	15 Portugal	21 Slovakia
4 Sweden	10 Cyprus	16 France	22 Ukraine
5 Ireland	11 Belgium	17 Poland	
6 Finland	12 Germany	18 Estonia	

Appendix C - UNICEF

Britain's children are unhappiest in the Western world

Britain's children are the unhappiest in the West, according to a Unicef study of 21 industrialised countries.

Not only do they drink the most, smoke more and have more sex than their peers, they rate their health as the poorest, dislike school more and are among the least satisfied with life. Their relative poverty, the lack of time spent eating meals with their parents and mistrust of classmates mean that Britain languishes at the bottom of the wellbeing league table. As a result, says Jonathan Bradshaw, one of the authors of *Report Card 7: an Overview of Child Wellbeing in Rich Countries*, Britain is a "picture of neglect".

The report, which is the first of its kind by the international children's organisation, was designed to show how countries compare internationally, rather than to explain the differences. But Professor Bradshaw, a leading authority on child poverty, believes that it is also in part a reflection of past failings.

"Between 1979 and 1999, children were relatively neglected in Britain, child poverty rates rose rapidly, those living in workless households soared and the numbers not in education or training also rose," he said. "Since then, there's been a big increase in spending on health and childcare, which is making a difference, but we're having to reverse two decades of neglect."

Among the most worrying findings, he said, was British children's own perception that they were among the worst-off. Asked to rate their health, almost a quarter of teenagers said that it was fair or poor, the worst in the countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. In addition, those aged 11 to 15 fell into the bottom six countries for enjoying school life and feeling satisfied with their lot.

The reason for this, according to Professor Bradshaw, lies in inequality. "The more unequal a society, the relatively deprived people will feel, and child poverty is still double the rate it was in 1979," he said.

Forty indicators of child wellbeing – including relative poverty, child safety, educational achievement, relationships with parents and drug misuse – are brought together in the Unicef study's overview to present a picture of the lives of children. Northern European countries dominate the top half of the table, with child wellbeing at its highest in the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Finland. Britain and the US find themselves in the bottom of most rankings.

The report shows that there is no strong relationship between per capita GDP and child wellbeing. The Czech Republic, for example, achieves a higher overall rank for child wellbeing than several more wealthy European countries.

