

**775**  
people sold  
**BIG ISSUE NORTH**  
last year

**11,947**  
magazines  
were sold by  
vendors each  
week



Our staff provided  
crisis support  
**1,912**  
times

Our staff  
provided health  
and wellbeing  
support  
**80**  
times

Our staff provided  
finance support

**236**  
times



 **49**  
vendors were  
supported into  
accommodation

 **27**  
vendors were  
supported into  
education

**23**  
vendors were  
supported into  
employment

We reached  
**1,800,000**  
people on  
Twitter



**30**  
members of the  
public sold the  
magazine for  
an hour for the  
Big Sell

Vendors sold  
**1,370**  
Big Issue North  
calendars

**1,500**  
people  
came to our  
first Street  
Noise event



**Big Issue North** provides people with no alternative a means to earn an income and develop skills to improve their lives, by selling a weekly street paper. Vendors get support from Big Issue North Trust, a charity that provides signposting and advice, help getting ID, home furnishing packages, projects such as breakfast clubs and much more.

***Dave,  
Big Issue North Vendor***

I've just started selling the magazine again. During the last 12 months I have been under a lot of pressure. I've had some financial problems and a lot of health problems, things like chest infections, which kept me off work and added to the stress. All of this led to me having a nervous breakdown just before Christmas. I don't remember much about the actual breakdown. I was at home when it happened. A friend of mine called the police because I was a danger to myself. I came close to committing suicide.

I knew that my mental health was deteriorating but I didn't let it show. A lot of my customers didn't realise what kind of stress I was under. People don't see it, what's inside, especially if you come across like I do as all happy and outgoing. I tried to cover it up and not show people by smiling all the time but inside it was killing me.

Recovery has been slow. I'm getting professional counselling, working with staff from Big Issue North and a friend of mine is also supporting me.

I have had some very good support from Big Issue North. It was important for me to know that I could come back and sell again when I recovered, to see the people who know me from selling the magazine. I am 100 per cent pleased to be back selling the magazine properly, it's been a couple of difficult years but I have had such great support from a lot of people. It feels like "Manchester loves you".

I am hoping to get a permanent pitch re-established somewhere and I turn 60 on 6 May. That feels like a big milestone. I am hoping that my life will turn around. I feel like there's light at the end of the tunnel. My plan is to get that caravan that I have always wanted and to retire to North Wales in the next couple of years.

Life has been an uphill struggle ever since I was a child. But I feel that I have a family now, not just in Big Issue North but in the broader circle of my customers who have all helped me out over the years. I didn't have the family 60 years ago that I have got now.

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For full information on the impact of Big Life's services during 2017/18, visit [www.thebiglifegroup.com/impact](http://www.thebiglifegroup.com/impact).