

644

people sold
BIG ISSUE NORTH
last year

11,542

magazines
were sold by
vendors each
week



39

vendors were
supported into
education

Our staff
provided health
and wellbeing
support

171
times

Our staff provided
finance support

213
times



We reached
1,807,659
people on
Twitter



Our staff provided
crisis support

1,521
times

"If it weren't for the staff and
customers at Big Issue North,
I wouldn't be here now."

Stuart, Big Issue North vendor

33



artists played
Street Noise
events

11

vendors were
supported into
employment



5

vendors were
supported into
accommodation

Big Issue North provides people with 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.

Stuart, Big Issue North Vendor

In February 2018, Stuart was battling a dangerous addiction, while sleeping on a friend's sofa.

But Stuart was determined not to give up on his dream of remaining sober and changing his life, and with the support of Big Issue North staff and his own resilience, he is now able to focus on detoxing and getting clean in a safe environment.



Thanks to the staff's local knowledge, and good relationships with other organisations and services, Stuart has been supported into specialist recovery accommodation. This means that he will begin his journey of clean and independent living with a network of other residents who also understand the struggles that he has been facing.

Stuart said: "I sold the magazine because it was a way to support myself. Not just earning money, but to get other things in my life sorted too.

"Big Issue North has helped me with everything, from getting ID to helping me make and arrange appointments. They have given me support with my recovery and managed to get me housed into specialist recovery accommodation.

"If it weren't for the staff and customers at Big Issue North, I wouldn't be here now."

During his time with Big Issue North, Stuart has thrown himself into the role, proving to be a reliable and outgoing member of the vendor community.

Although Stuart will be taking a break from life as an active vendor to focus on getting clean and deciding on his next steps, he isn't ready to step away from Big Issue North entirely.

"Although I'm no longer selling the magazine, I will still be around to volunteer with Big Issue North because they have really helped me."