

Case study: **Community Investment**

LSE Project team and partnership with Crisis Good Neighbours



Julian Robinson, LSE Estates Director commented *"Now, that's what I call a 'considerate contractor'; what an inspiring story. Company ethos is important to us and by this care and concern and most importantly action, Mace have demonstrated why they are the right sort of contractor for the LSE – Bravo! "*

Homelessness in London is a major problem. We all see examples every day of people sleeping in the street as we walk past on our way to site, and we largely ignore it because it is so commonplace. It's a sight too familiar to most of us. When the Mace PREACH project team at the LSE development kept noticing the same two guys sleeping by the sites pedestrian entrance every night, they couldn't keep turning a blind eye.

Every evening two gentlemen would turn up and make their beds up for the night, in the Waterstones Bookshop entrance adjacent to the Mace site entrance. Each morning when the project team arrived for work, the two gentlemen were still there, but within an hour they had disappeared, leaving their sleeping pitch clean and tidy. The Waterstones staff kept an eye on them, but did not want to move them on. After a few attempts Luke Boxall persuaded the two men to have a cup of coffee in the site office, and their stories unfolded. To expose their stories is not the purpose of this article, instead what transpired was an all too familiar story of wanting to create a better life in the UK, and these guys were skilled, educated men who didn't manage to get the opportunities quickly enough when they came to the UK and found themselves homeless.

The project team arranged accommodation for them on a temporary basis for three weeks in a local hostel, and because of our close links with Crisis Skylight, with their help the two individuals successfully passed a CSCS test so they could access work more easily.

A week later, both guys were interviewed for jobs within the Construction industry, are now both working on Mace sites, and with help from Crisis, they are renting temporary accommodation until they find something more permanent. The guys can't believe their luck and as the project team have shown, a little bit of time and consideration goes a long way.



Sue Tarratt, the book shop manager from Waterstones Bookshop emailed Mace:

"I have been impressed by the compassionate way in which you and your colleagues at Mace have dealt with the 2 homeless guys sleeping in our doorway. You are also making every effort to keep disruption down to a minimum which is much appreciated."

Community Benefits

- Helping local people into work
- Engaging with local businesses and the community to promote good will.
- Establishment of good relations within the local community

Business Benefits

- Identify people who are skilled and want to work
- Promote the company's reputation in the city as a concerned and responsible employer
- Encourages loyalty amongst the staff through the opportunity to do good