

The Big Issue Foundation KS3 PowerPoint Notes

Please do get in touch with us at events@bigissue.com or 020 7526 3456 if you have any questions about the content of this presentation, or the charity in general. We might also be able to send a speaker to your assembly too!

Slide 1:

Introductory slide to have on the board whilst the students are entering the room/settling down

Slide 2:

Ask the students to raise their hand on the number they think is correct.

The correct answer is over 4000, 4751 people have to sleep outside every night. That's more people than are in this school/a similar comparison.

It is important to consider the fact that people are only classed as rough sleepers if they are actually seen **sleeping** on the street. This number does not include anyone awake, walking around, or not seen.

People not included in this figure are people in temporary accommodation like hostels or B&B's or people who have been locked out of home and aren't allowed back.

Slide 3:

The big issue is split into three parts; Big Issue magazine, Big Issue Foundation and Big Issue Invest. The big issue magazine was founded in 1991 in response to the large amounts of homeless people on the streets of London. It spread across the country and is now a worldwide organisation with people seeing the Big Issue all over the world. People who sell the magazines are called Big Issue vendors.

Slide 4:

In order to become a Big Issue vendor one must undergo an induction process and sign the code of conduct. Once they have done so they are able to work on pitches, these are specific places they are allowed to sell the magazine to avoid overlap. Vendors are given 5 free magazines to start them off. Once they have sold these magazines they begin to purchase the magazine for £1.25 and sell it onto the public for £2.50. This means that for every magazine sold the vendor earns £1.25.

Slide 5:

The Foundation was set up in 1995 and is the Charity arm of the Big Issue. It exists to link vendors with the vital support and services they need. For a lot of vendors who are of no fixed abode, this creates a lot of difficulties accessing vital services like healthcare and finance, leading to difficulties securing a job.

Slide 6:

The Big Issue Foundation works with over 2,000 vendors annually. We enable vendors to: open bank accounts, access health services, find accommodation, meet their aspirations and reconnect with families and friends, volunteer, train, learn and start their own enterprises and find paid work. We

do this through our Service Brokers, who work with vendors to ensure they can access the services they need.

Slide 7

A typical week as a Service Broker (who are the people working front line with the vendors) can include an extensive range of activities, projects and interventions. These can vary from assisting Vendors register with a G.P, sales training, supporting them with housing applications and referrals to local Councils. They also manage funding for the vendor through accessing financial support with The Big Issue Foundation Vendor Support Fund to buy big purchases like furniture and kitchen appliances to make a new tenancy feel like home.

Slide 8

Some of the money raised by The Big Issue Foundation goes towards the Vendor Support Fund, this is a service that the vendors can access if they need help paying for something important.

For example, getting Garard a passport to ensure he could travel to Ireland and reconnect with his family – something that was very important to him.

June was actively participating in a course of educational workshops to increase her job prospects but she needed help paying for the train ticket to get there.

Ian was sleeping on a broken bed in rented accommodation and has back issues which meant it was extremely important that he was able to replace it quickly.

The vendor support fund requires the vendor to contribute 50% (half) of the money they need and TBIF will match this.

Slide 9:

(Adapt this if you already have an event planned for this school)

The Big Issue Foundation can only continue with fundraising support from the members of the public, like you! Why not host an event within your tutor or year group? Cake sales are a great way to raise money, and the more you do the better! Planning the end of term prom? Why not have ticket sales donated to help The Big Issue Foundation to continue our great work.

Slide 10:

Now that you know so much about The Big Issue and The Big Issue Foundation spread the word with your family and friends and encourage them to sign up to The Big Issue Foundation events and buy the magazine from the hard working vendors. When you go to sleep tonight, think about all the hard working men and women on the streets selling their magazines.