

**Please help me support:
St Giles Trust (Charity Reg: 801355)**



**at the
2021 London Marathon**

Dear Friends,

On Sunday the 3rd October I will be running my fourth London Marathon to raise funds in support of the charity St Giles Trust.

https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PaulMay_LondonMarathon_StGilesTrust/5

St Giles Trust is a charity helping people facing severe disadvantage to escape gang and knife culture, find jobs, homes and the right support they need. St Giles helps them to become positive contributors to local communities and wider society. <https://www.stgilestrust.org.uk>

Last year St Giles staff helped **4,500** young people access positive opportunities, to decrease their risk of criminal exploitation.

Recent Statistics:

44,285 police-recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months to March 2021.

275 Police-recorded murders involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months to March 2020.

Source: Office of National Statistic

National Crime Agency figures for the UK show that at least **14.5 per cent** of referrals were flagged as *county lines* drug running last year, compared to around 11 per cent in 2019. There has been a reported **35 per cent increase** in referrals during COVID-19. At least **27,000 children** in England have been identified as a member of a county lines gang.

St Giles works to help individuals escape from:

- Gang violence
- Drug running/County Lines
- Knife crime
- Disadvantage

St Giles Rehabilitates:

- Serving prisoners to successfully rehabilitate and pursue crime-free lives.
- Offers specialist support for women prison leavers to help address their specific needs and ensure the women feel supported and connected.

St Giles Aims

A key aspect of their operation is to train people who have experienced disadvantage to be Peer Advisors helping others to turn around their lives.

I have had the privilege to meet Dr Junior Smart who was employed by St Giles Trust on his release from prison, and then established the SOS Project to work with young people involved in gangs, (and achieve his PhD): <https://www.the-sse.org/stories/junior-smart-sos-gangs/>

St Giles delivers:

- Intensive, specialist help for young people affected by gang-related violence and exploitation.
- Seeks to prevent young people at risk of becoming involved in gangs and violence.
- Helps young people who are not in education, training or employment to improve their levels of confidence and skills, with the aim of supporting them.

St Giles provides:

- Help for adults in overcoming disadvantage to improve their skills, confidence and ultimately support them into employment.
- Services for women and community support for vulnerable adults.
- Help for children and families and for people affected by poverty, debt and financial hardship.

I have been supporting the St Giles Trust for nearly 20 years and am also now a mentor to staff.

Thank you in advance if you are able make a contribution at:

https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PaulMay_LondonMarathon_StGilesTrust/5

and for giving me the opportunity to bring the St Giles Trust to your attention.

With all best wishes,

Paul

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