

0341f / Summary Sheet

Track One, pp. 1-2

On the day of the flood he was working at an event at St Thomas's Church in Kendal with people coming from a wide area. Turned them back and the event was cancelled. Locked the Church up at tea-time and went home to his family. He lives up a hill so his house was fine, but it was a difficult journey. Through the night he kept in touch with the news. In the morning contacted Jonny Gios of Sandylands Methodist Church (SMC) to see if he could help. Went to SMC – description of the journey and the dreadful conditions in Sandylands. Much worse than he had expected or what he had seen on social media. A devastating event, but they needed to focus on helping people.

Track Two, pp. 2-4

Volunteers already arriving at SMC and people leaving supplies on Sunday morning. Put tables up ready to deal with people when they arrived. The Church had flooded – people had been moved from there to the Leisure Centre. Put notices up with numbers of organisations to help and support. Recorded details. A huge amount of support provided by individuals and businesses. All of this distributed from SMC. Dreadful scenes on the street. Community spirit was terrific. Volunteers busy. Still many people not back in their homes and more to do at time of interview. After the flood there was a shortage of accommodation.

Track Three, pp. 4-6

Description of the organisation and support provided by SMC over the months. The Encouragement Cabin. Paid staff taken on to deal with the emergency. He was one of these – an extreme case handler. The development of a team. St Thomas's Church helped with funding. Still doing his job at time of interview. Detailed case study of an elderly man and how he was helped.

Track Four, pp. 6-8

Some agencies failed to listen to people. This was very important and one of the things SMC was determined to do. Gaining trust was very important. People needed help to fill in forms, etc. Some did not wish to ask for help or charity. Important to find ways to help them by listening.

Track Five, pp. 8-10

Position of the flood relief centre and activity at SMC at the time of interview. The Encouragement Cabin (EC) is to go soon. Details of events held over the months to help the local community. Sandylands is a much stronger community now than it was before the flood. The Church is now fully restored and can be used – so the EC no longer needed. SMC has been a beacon of hope for the community. His hopes for the future. He is proud of what SMC was able to do.