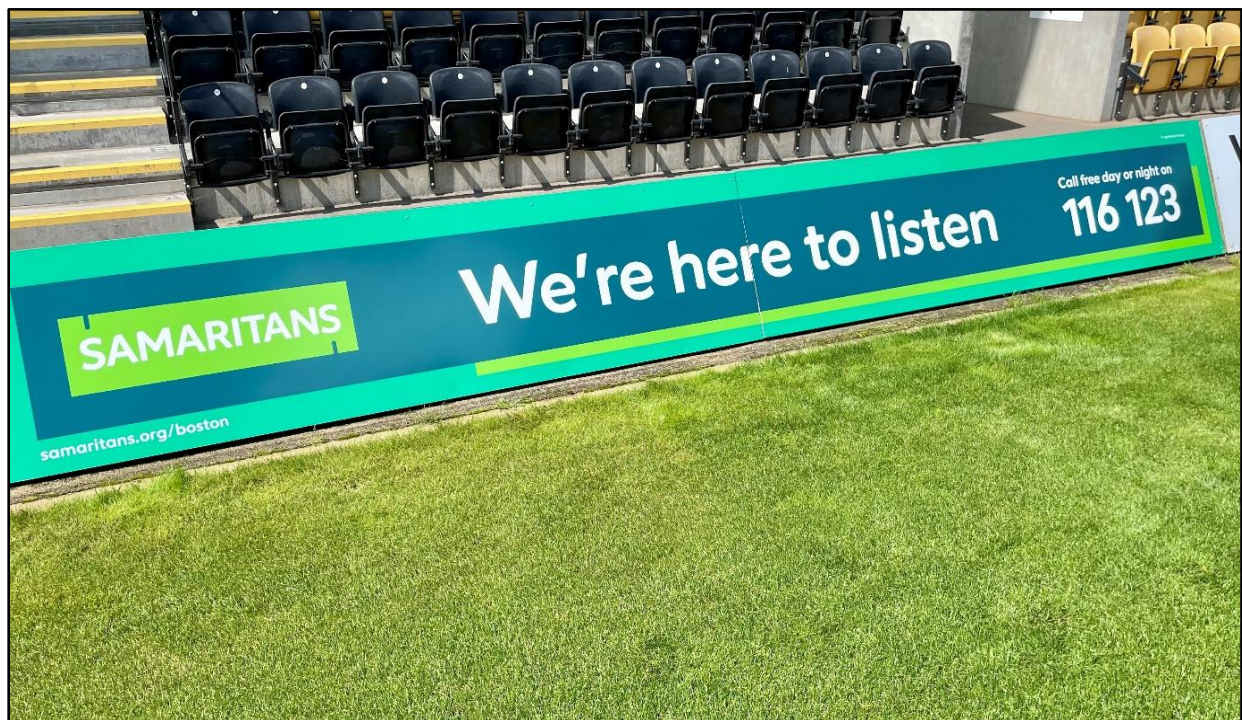


# Samaritans Quarterly Report for Boston Big Local – September 2023

## Boston United Football Club

Our Samaritans Awareness banner has finally been fully installed at the football ground and we are now able to join with football clubs all over the country in promoting our service.

Suicide is the biggest killer of people under 35 and men under 50 and as times get tough it is vital that people feel able to reach out for support and talk about their mental health, now more than ever, whatever the occasion. Football fans can talk endlessly about formations, offsides, and VAR decisions but often find it harder to be open about the important things, such as their own mental health.



This year Samaritans have a new 3-year charity partner, Three UK, who have teamed up with Chelsea FC encouraging the 44,000 fans at the game, and millions more across the UK and beyond, to **#TalkMoreThanFootball**.

Locally, we are delighted to have our national number by the pitch where around 6,000 supporters will know where to call if they need to talk.



## Outreach Training

In September we were pleased to be able to take part in a promotional event at the Princess Royal stadium in Boston which was organised by local NHS representatives.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the event which has grown considerably over that time, last year it was held at the Gliderdrome. 6 volunteers attended at various times during the day to engage with other stall holders and those visiting for further information.

Awareness and recruitment leaflets were given out to the public as well as those professionals attending including:

- NHS staff, particularly the new Mental Health team based at Pilgrim Hospital who engage with A&E patients and signpost to us, Community team and social prescribing team.
- Fire service staff
- Geoff Moulder Leisure Centre



We have also received requests to deliver more training in the BBL area either by providing leaflets and information for clients – Boston CAB or for in person sessions – Boston Nacro.

There have been enquiries too from Boston College and Boston High School about awareness training which we hope to bring to fruition over the winter.

### **Probationary Samaritans progressing.**

Our five probationer Samaritans, recruited in April, are well on their way to completing their 6 months training following 4 individual Embedding sessions over the summer and complementary online modules. They will increase our numbers to 35 volunteers, and we will begin Core training for another 6 prospective volunteers in October.

## .... and a thank you to Boston Big Local

From everyone at Samaritans of Boston, Lincolnshire to all of you, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support in helping us both raise our profile in the local area for the people of Boston and to continue to deliver our service to those in need of emotional support.

