

asphaleia staff do something funny for money

asphaleia staff pulled out all the stops to raise over money for Comic Relief this year, a funder very close to our hearts as they currently fund our Buddy Me project.

"It was fundraising mayhem," exclaims CEO Dave Cottrell. "It started with a four day cake sale from the team in Head Office (and funded by the boost team it seems – might have something to do with their office being right next to the kitchen!). Cakes included lemon zest, carrot, chocolate brownies and so many cupcakes I honestly lost track!"

The asphaleia training team have all got behind two members of their team, Simon and Ant, who are both growing beards in aid of Comic Relief. They will be sporting their hairy look for 40 days – who's beard will be the longest?

Finally, on red nose day itself all asphaleia staff wore an item of red clothing (see pictures below) and all paid at least £1 toward the fund. Altogether asphaleia have raised £350 so far – well done to all staff involved!



Info on Buddy Me

Buddy Me (which is funded by Comic Relief) has been developed as a result of research into the rise in trafficking, which is now the 3rd most profitable criminal activity (IBID). The Home Office states child victims of trafficking have unique needs, a reduced capacity to assess risk & an increased dependency on others. However, local authorities/agencies do not yet have joined up approaches & presently a high number of trafficked young people fall into the hands of traffickers.

Buddy Me aims to reduce the number of trafficked young people falling into the hands of criminal traffickers to be exploited through slavery and prostitution. Buddy Me supports trafficking victims, providing crucial eight week intensive buddying to empower "at risk" young people in making the decision not to contact their trafficker and disappear into a life of exploitation.

Buddying addresses young people's belief that contacting their trafficker is the only option. It helps them overcome fears, give support to face threats made against them and their families and reassure them they are safe. Buddies signpost young people to further support if needed.