

# BCAN Homeless Forum Shared Guidelines Code of Practice

(This is supplied by the Bristol Soup Run Trust)

## ***Aims***

1. To organise a soup run, giving food and essential supplies without charge to homeless people on the streets, sleeping rough or in inadequate shelter.
2. To offer friendship and help, with further facilities as and when required.
3. To raise awareness of the general plight of the homeless, and to liaise with similar organisations in promoting the interests of the homeless.

## ***Rules***

1. No one under 18 may go out on a soup run.
2. A soup run team will have a minimum of two people. No one shall ever go out alone. There must be at least one man in each team.
3. Volunteers must be aware that they undertake a soup run at their own risk, both to themselves and to their property, i.e. cars etc.
4. An identity card must be carried by the leader of each team.
5. No drugs or medicines whatever are to be administered to any clients
6. Volunteers taking part in the soup run should
  - Respect the privacy of clients
  - Avoid disturbing residents/neighbours
  - Never forcibly enter a building
  - Only give advice when it is known to be correct
7. All official contacts with other organisations and the media must be:
  - Co-ordinated through the Chairman of the Trust
  - Discussed at a volunteers' meeting beforehand.
8. The Soup Run must not be used as a platform for any individual's political or religious beliefs

## ***Advice***

It is unwise to patronise people by giving them too much advice. However, in the course of casual, friendly conversation the following information can be used.

Help and advice on accommodation is best obtained from the homeless umbrella agency The Hub, 13-17 Cumberland Street, St Paul' s (off Brunswick Square, left off main road to Old Market, Bond Street, coming from sunken gardens opposite Bentalls).

If a rough sleeper seems to find it difficult to get to The Hub, or needs an immediate bed the direct access hostels below are available. The majority are funded by the Government Homeless Action Programme.

(List of hostels and day centres)

## ***Emergencies***

Trinity Road Police            945 5766 (non-urgent reporting)

Bridewell Police                945 5069 (non-urgent reporting)

Southmead Police               945 5069 (non-urgent reporting)

If you think someone needs care and/or protection contact Social Services Emergency Duty Team 01454 461 5165.

If you see a needle do not remove it but report to Bristol City Council Environmental Health 922 3838 8.30 am - 8.30 pm Mon – Fri.

Nearest Accident and Emergency Department is the Bristol Royal Infirmary.