

BCAN
Homeless Forum
Crisis Centre Ministries
13 September 2007

Open

Introduction

Everyone present was welcomed to the meeting. Present at the meeting were Paul Hazelden (Crisis Centre Ministries), Graham Wheeler (Bristol Soup Run Trust), Val Moore (Christ Church, Clifton) and John Atkinson (Streetwise).

Apologies Received

Ailsa McWilliam (Caring at Christmas), Barry Penn (Bristol Methodist Centre), Ian Mountford (Salvation Army) and Dave Perry (Emmaus Bristol).

Previous Meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Assessment Centre. There is no significant change to the details reported at the previous meeting, apart from the fact that it is now anticipated to be fully operational in mid December or January.

2007 Homelessness Survey. Some time was spent reviewing the summary report, which had previously been circulated. No changes were suggested. Paul will present the report to the Case Review Group on Tuesday 25 September, and to the Hostels Review Group on Tuesday 2 October. It is anticipated that Ailsa will present the report to the Practitioners Forum on Tuesday 2 October, but this could not be confirmed. We hope that these presentations will improve the participation of the statutory groups in the 2008 survey.

Homelessness Review. Ailsa has agreed to represent us on the review. She will report back to the next meeting.

Notified Business

2008 Homelessness Survey

Paul reported that he has added 'Police Cell' to the possible locations where people might have slept over the past week. There has been a request for a question about Meaningful Occupation, but no clear suggestion about what that question might be.

It was noted that next year, we need the people asking the questions to prompt with other names for services. For example, when asking about the Mental Health Outreach, they should explain they mean Sally or Cheryl.

Information Share

FareShare

Just a few days ago, on Monday this week, the final step was taken: the contract for the warehouse was exchanged, and the franchise agreement was signed. The refrigeration and racking are being installed, which should take a couple of weeks. We anticipate the first food being distributed on or around 1 October.

There will be a big launch event, which clashes with the next BHF on 8 November, at the warehouse: Unit 4a Templegate Park, Mead Rise, Bristol, BS3 4RP. Invitations to the launch will be sent out, but if anyone would like to be invited, please email info@faresharesouthwest.org.uk or telephone Suzie Webster on 07983 263 318.

Candle Community Centre

Ian Mountford was unable to attend because his son Jacob was going into the Children's Hospital for minor surgery. He sent the following details.

They are without a cook again after the cook resigned. Despite this the first few meals of September were in excess of 90 at each sitting. However, they are currently unable to provide food parcels due to a lack of provisions.

Tomorrows people are also now attending the drop in each Tuesday and Thursday in relation to employment and education..

Bristol Soup Run Trust

Graham was pleased to report that all nights are now covered. He recently did a radio interview on BCFM, which helped with their publicity.

In July they celebrated their 20th anniversary, with clients and volunteers together in the grounds at Pip'n'Jay. This was the only fine Saturday in July. Live music was provided and much appreciated. They gave out food, toiletries and chocolate. Every week, they give out 4 to 6 blankets to people at Pip'n'Jay, but this does not mean all these people are roofless: they could be too drunk to go back to their hostels.

Redcliffe Wharf, one of the regular meeting places, has been turned into a beach, so they may have to find somewhere else to meet.

The John James Foundation gave £1500 recently. They are also applying to the Broadmead Box Scheme and Street Smart. Sainsbury's have offered regular donations of food. It was noted that *Fresh and Wild* on the Triangle have been donating food to the Big Issue.

The next bi-monthly meeting will be held on 25 September.

Caring at Christmas

John reported that the Three Peaks expedition raised a total of over £1,000 for Caring at Christmas.

Crisis Centre Ministries

Three new people have expressed an interest in being trustees. They all look like useful people, and should be elected at the forthcoming AGM, which will be at Trinity Tabernacle on Monday 8 October, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is invited, but please let CCM know if you are coming so they can ensure there are enough papers and refreshments.

At the AGM, Paul will briefly explain the plans to update the constitution: CCM intends to become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) next year: this will avoid the problems of being both a charity and a limited company. As part of the preparation for this, they need to revise their charitable objects.

Alan Goddard, the new Coffee Shop Manager, has put a lot of work into helping a young Polish lad. He has nearly raised the funds needed to keep him at Lazarus House for eight months.

A team from CCM have been going down to Brunswick Square every Wednesday afternoon for several months. There have been lots of problems here with our clients hanging round and drinking. The square is in the middle of Wade Street, the Bear Pit and Stokes Croft, which are all no-drinking zones. When the team are present, there are fewer problems in the square. The police expect Brunswick Square to be a no-drinking zone by the new year, perhaps part of a 'city-wide' no-drinking zone.

Paul asked if anyone knew who was delivering food to the square on Sundays: if anyone knows about this, could they please get in touch with him via the CCM office?

Christ Church

Christ Church are carrying on their activities as usual. They have an important meeting tonight to set up arrangements for the new year.

The Churches Together Saturday Lunch Run is very busy: they are sometimes overwhelmed in the Bear Pit.

Streetwise

Street drinking numbers are down, apart from in Brunswick Square. Begging numbers are also down: last two week's figures were 5 and 6; the Outreach weekly hot counts are usually between 6 and 11. There have been lots of good move-ons recently.

It looks like Bristol will be getting a part-time Wet Centre soon! St Judes' Street Strategy Group have proposed to establish a trial Wet Centre at the New Street Centre. James from Novas will visit similar centres in Camden next week. The plan is for it to operate in the drop-in one afternoon per week. There will be small numbers to start, and attendees have to be referred. Lots of agencies will have staff there, who may well outnumber the clients. There has been some local opposition led by a counsellor, but

after a meeting where the facts were discussed, the objections seem to have been overcome.

If the scheme is successful, this will be used as an argument to get more funding to provide a permanent facility. John will ask Woz James-Synott from Novas to talk about the scheme at the next BHF – he will confirm the invitation by email next week.

Streetwise are making new use of some old legislation from 1902 to deal with habitual drunks. This seems to be working well.

Streetwise have seen lots of new people between last June and August, falling into two main groups: transient festival goers, and Eastern Europeans – mainly Poles and Lithuanians.

Close

Shared Documents

The usual documents were made available for people to look at and pick up. These are listed on the Homeless Forum Documents page of the BCAN web site: you can navigate from the BCAN home page (<http://www.bcan.org.uk>), or go directly to the page at http://www.bcan.org.uk/bhf/12_homeless_docs.html; they are also available from the Crisis Centre Ministries office at 12 City Road.

Websites

It was agreed to include details of some of the key web sites in the meeting notes.

- www.bcan.org.uk
- www.bristolsoupruntrust.org.uk
- www.caringinbristol.org
- www.juliantrust.org.uk
- www.aspire-bristol.co.uk

Items For Next Agenda

2008 Homelessness Survey

Homelessness Review

Wet Centre

Any Other Business

First Aid. Val will check the availability of Appointed Person first aid training, and will let Paul know the details next week.

Future Meetings

Details of the next meetings are as follows: **8 November 2007**, venue is Caring at Christmas; **10 January 2008**, venue to be decided. All meetings will start at 7:30 pm and aim to finish by 9:30.