

BCAN
Homeless Forum
Crisis Centre Ministries
8 November 2007

Open

Introduction

Everyone present was welcomed to the meeting. Present at the meeting were Paul Hazelden (Crisis Centre Ministries), Dave Perry (Emmaus), Ailsa McWilliam (Caring at Christmas), Barry Penn (Methodist Centre), Sr. Bernadette (St Nicholas Church), Roger Allen (West of England Network) and Andy Barfoot (Bristol Soup Run Trust).

Apologies Received

Paul Tipler (Aspire), Julian Marsh (BCAN), John Atkinson (Streetwise), Steve Griffiths (Julian Trust), Julie Griffiths (Julian Trust), Andrew Kellett (Logos House), Graham Wheeler (Soup Run) and Ian Mountford (Salvation Army Candle).

Previous Meeting

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

Matters Arising

Homelessness Survey. Paul and Ailsa went round to some of the multi agency meetings such as the hostel review group with the survey results. There was some feedback but no surprises; it all went well.

Fareshare. They started operations soon after 1 October. The launch event was tonight. Their van has been off the road, but they now have food and can give it out if organisations can collect.

Crisis Centre Ministries. CCM has three new people interested in becoming Trustees. They are still visiting Brunswick Square on Wednesdays to help the street drinkers. No-one came back to Paul about who is delivering sandwiches on a Sunday.

Wet Centre. Woz was invited to talk about the wet centre. He was unable to attend, but sent some notes. The scheme is still embryonic. There will be five staff to start with and it will be limited to 10 clients. These will be people that are known as street drinking and have recognised chronic alcohol problems and no-where to drink. Referral agencies will be involved in running the service as there is only funding for a Doctor and Nurse. This will be provided by Emmaus (Homeless Health Service). The rest of the service is provided by organisations involved with this client group. It will run for three months, starting with one afternoon a week, and later opening one morning as well. This will provide evidence of the need for the service. It is due to start 9 January. It will be looking holistically with clients at issues such as food, housing, drink diaries and health. CAAAD will be providing training for those involved.

Notified Business

2008 Homelessness Survey

Paul had circulated questions and guidance notes prior to the meeting. It has been updated from last year's survey with the feedback. A few minor additions have been added and the layout reordered to fit into a timescale sequence. On the back 'what are your aspirations?' has been added as someone suggested it will then end on a positive note.

Points raised were: Group c should read 'consecutive' not 'continuous'; and does '10 nights' need 'random' added so it doesn't look like ten consecutive nights?

Would the clients understand jargon i.e. JSA? They would for that, yes. Would they understand the term Mediation? This will have to be explained by the person doing the survey. The idea is that there will be someone who will go through the survey with the person taking part. Is it worth adding on the guidance notes that people may have to explain some of the things and not assume that they will know what you mean.

Section c is presently the old rough sleeper criteria. Do we keep it the same? It was agreed the up-to-date criteria would be better.

If there is a public meeting/presentation to the Media once the results were in it would be good to get the council involved, to show they approve of the research.

The text of the questions and guidance notes needs to be finalised before the next BHF meeting in January. Paul asked for feedback by 22 November if possible.

Information Share

Bristol Soup Run Trust

As churches there should be co-ordination and it would be good to find out who is doing what well and duplicate it. There are broad approaches on the soup run i.e. some people go out in cars, some go out in vans.

It might be useful to know who is going out when as some groups provide slightly different things.

St Nicholas Church

Their entry in survival handbook has times wrong. The door ministry runs from Monday – Saturday, 10am – 12pm and Sunday 5pm – 7pm. Tea, coffee, cold drinks and sandwiches are provided to any homeless person who calls at the door. They have between 50 – 60 people at any one session. They give occasional food parcels to those in need. At present they have 26 full-time volunteers running the ministry, mainly from St Nicholas Parish with help from a few from other parishes. This ministry is financed from donations and parish funds.

West of England Network

Roger explained that about the West of England Network. It is a portal website set up to help improve communications and connections within the Christian community in and around the West of England. They can offer churches, projects or organisations various services. The website should be launched in March next year. If anyone has anything to publicise please get in touch.

Emmaus

Business is amazing. They are working on setting up a new shop in Bedminster and trying to develop the accommodation. This would not just be for more numbers, but more numbers in different forms, such as move on. The Homeless Health Service is going well. Through international links they have given money to a project in Bulgaria. The companions are having a pensioner's lunch in December. They are also raising money for a project in Benin, Africa.

Caring at Christmas

They will be open over Christmas from 3pm Christmas Eve to 10am New Years Eve. For those not staying overnight the doors will be locked at 11pm and the shelter will open again at 8am. Nightstop has been quiet but there have not been many host available. A recruitment drive for hosts will start in the New Year for more hosts. There are two new households who will go through training in January. It is hoped to have a new edition of the Survival guide early 2008.

Methodist Centre

The centre had an away day in September to look at the life of the centre. This included some short term and long term improvements. They are hoping to implement some of the short term improvements straight away.

Crisis Centre Ministries

The LITE course is continuing. Alan has been doing lots of work with clients getting people into rehab. They are planning to recruit a cook/assistant manager to assist Alan.

The training for volunteers is still going once a month, on the second Saturday and second Wednesday. It is to help volunteers working with vulnerable people understand the issues. The next one is 10 November (at Trinity Tabernacle), repeated on 14 November (at Crisis Centre Ministries): further information on the website (www.bcan.org.uk). The feedback has been positive from the recent sessions.

Candle Community Centre

Candle is closed until Tuesday 20th November due to a partial refit of the kitchen.

Christmas Toy Appeal. Please see attached Christmas present campaign being run Throughout the South West in conjunction with BBC Radio Bristol and the Western Daily Press from Friday 23 November until Sunday 16 December. Visit the web site: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/christmaspresentappealsouthwest

If you know of families who would benefit from the appeal or would like to offer to receive donations as a donation centre please email bristol.citadel@salvationarmy.org.uk

Christmas Day Meal. We are also again providing a Christmas day meal for the elderly (over 60 years) at three locations in the city of Bristol and are able to provide transport for those who need it. Last year over 300 meals were provided across the city, please email tracey.mountford@salvationarmy.org.uk if you know of anyone who would benefit from this or know of volunteers that would like to help out.

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

There was none.

Future Meetings

Details of the 2008 meetings are as follows. All meetings will start at 7:30 pm and aim to finish by 9:30.

- **10 January**, Caring at Christmas offices, Little Bishop Street
- **13 March**, venue TBC
- **8 May**, venue TBC
- **10 July**, venue TBC
- **11 September**, venue TBC
- **13 November**, venue TBC