

**BCAN**  
**Homeless Forum**  
CCM Office, 12 City Road  
13 March 2008

## **Introduction**

The notes of the previous meeting in January had not been distributed, for which Paul gave sincere if belated apologies.

Present at the meeting were Debbie Green (Bristol Methodist Centre), Val Moore (Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland) and Paul Hazelden (Crisis Centre Ministries). Ailsa sent her apologies: she was due to fly on holiday on Saturday and had just heard that her flight had been cancelled. Apologies were also received from Dave Perry (Emmaus Bristol), John Atkinson (StreetWise), Sr Bernadette (St Nicholas of Tolentino), and Ian Webb (Bristol Methodist Centre).

## **Previous Meeting**

### ***FareShare***

Paul reported problems with the phone number. Most people can get in touch with the Project Manager, Suzie Webster, on the advertised number of 0117 971 1005, but some people find that the phone appears to ring but is never picked up. This is because the phone is not actually ringing. FareShare and BT are trying to work out what is going wrong and how to fix it. In the mean time, people can ring Suzie on 07983 263 318.

### ***Vineyard***

From the last meeting, nobody was put down to contact Vineyard about publicising and maybe sharing their 'Banquet' for homeless people. Paul offered to do this

**Action: Paul**

## **Agenda Items**

### ***2008 Homelessness Survey***

Despite some last minute panics, the survey seems to have gone well. We don't have the results yet, but hope to have at least initial results available at the next meeting.

Graham did send Paul details of the teams, but the information arrived too late for Paul to contact the people involved.

Val reported that the Breakfast Run at the end of the week still found lots of people who had not completed the survey earlier in the week, which implies that however many results we have, we still do not have information about most of the homeless

people in Bristol. The size of the problem is much larger than we can demonstrate directly with our statistics.

## ***Homelessness Strategy Review***

Ailsa was again not present to report on this item. It will be held over to the next meeting. However, it seems that there is very little to report beyond the content of the email that Paul passed on the the BFH email list some time ago.

## ***Wet Centre***

We are not aware of any progress with this project.

## **Information Share**

### ***Bristol Methodist Centre***

Debbie reported that, apart from her, the entire staff team has changed. They are now looking forward to a period of greater stability! Debbie is now the Senior Support Worker. They are now seeking to rebuild links with other organisations in the area.

Food had not been provided on Sundays for a while, but it started again last week, and should be provided every week from now on.

### ***Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland***

There was not a great deal to report. The breakfast and lunch runs are continuing.

The annual Homelessness Service organised by the Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland will be held on Sunday 6 April, starting at 6:30 pm at Hope Chapel: contact Val or Paul if you need directions. Everyone is welcome.

### ***Crisis Centre Ministries***

CCM appointed the new member of staff: Lisa started working as the new Assistant Coffee Shop Manager at the beginning of March, and is already making a significant contribution to the ministry. As a result of the appointment, the Coffee Shop is now open every week day, Monday to Friday, from 11 am to 2:30 pm, as well as the existing evening sessions (Monday to Thursday, 8 to 10 pm, plus the Life Recovery Group on Fridays).

There is also a new session, 'Home Church', running on alternate Saturday evenings: prayer, worship, and a small amount of food. CCM is looking for another group to run Home Church on the other alternate Saturdays.

Following the difficulty with Potters House reported at the previous meeting, CCM experienced something similar: a group of people from Potters House were standing outside the Coffee Shop while it was open, handing out sandwiches. Alan, the Coffee Shop Manager, prayed about it, and went out to chat with them. He encouraged them to feed the homeless, but asked that they don't do it outside our shop as we don't want to upset the neighbours by giving our clients a reason to hang around outside.

Alan invited them to come in and find out what CCM does, and as a result he and Paul had a meeting with the Pastor and Youth Leader a few days ago. This went well, and they are now talking about working alongside the other groups serving homeless people in Bristol. It now looks like we should be able to build a good relationship with them in the near future.

## ***Close***

### ***Items for Next Agenda***

Items for the agenda of the next meeting include:

- 2008 Homelessness Survey
- Homelessness Strategy Review
- Wet Centre

### ***Usual 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](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.aspire-bristol.co.uk](http://www.aspire-bristol.co.uk)
- [www.bcan.org.uk](http://www.bcan.org.uk)
- [www.bristolsoupruntrust.org.uk](http://www.bristolsoupruntrust.org.uk)
- [www.caringinbristol.org](http://www.caringinbristol.org)
- [www.crisis-centre.org.uk](http://www.crisis-centre.org.uk)
- [www.juliantrust.org.uk](http://www.juliantrust.org.uk)

### ***Any Other Business***

Paul visited the Compass Centre on Tuesday this week, and noticed that they will shortly be closed for two days. We would find it helpful to be told when it will be closed.

### ***Future Meetings***

The meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of alternate months. All meetings start at 7:30 pm and aim to finish by 9:30. Details of the next two meetings are as follows.

**8 May 2008**, Christ Church, Clifton. Enter via the church main entrance.

**8 July 2008**, Bristol Methodist Centre.