

BCAN

Homeless Forum

Crisis Centre Ministries

12 March 2009

Open

Introduction

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everybody introduced themselves.

Those Present

Present at the meeting were Sister Bernadette (St Nicholas of Tolentino), Paul Hazelden (Chair, Crisis Centre Ministries), Betty Wear (St Nicholas of Tolentino) and Ian Webb (Bristol Methodist Centre).

Apologies Received

Apologies had been received from Patrick Benham (Julian Trust), Alan Goddard (Crisis Centre Ministries), Val Moore (Christ Church, Clifton CALME Committee and Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland), Ian Mountford (Ashley Road Salvation Army), Tony Richmond (Alabaré) and Graham Wheeler (Bristol Soup Run Trust).

Matters Arising From Previous Meeting

Paul apologised for not distributing the notes of the previous meeting. He had been working on them earlier in the day, and gave out draft copies at the meeting, but promised to make further changes before sending them out with the notes of this meeting.

Information Share

Caring at Christmas

Ailsa will be moving to London in April to work for the national Nightstop organisation. Sian will be coming back part time for a couple of months while they recruit a full time replacement for Ailsa. Ailsa's leaving event will be at 7 pm on Thursday 2 April at the Surrey Wine Vault in Surrey Street, just before her last day on Friday 3 April.

Bristol Soup Run Trust

Graham Wheeler reported that all nights are running despite a few recent breakdowns. Hope Chapel had a ceildh celebrating St Patrick's Day and gave the proceeds (£1,000!) to the BSRT.

St Nicholas of Tolentino

The door ministry is continuing, and is fairly busy at present – perhaps connected to the arrival of Spring weather. It was good to be a part of the Sleep Out.

Alabaré

Tony reported that they were very pleased with the Sleep Out and hope to repeat it next year. The provisional date is Friday 26 February 2010.

Tony would like to get hold of the photographs of the Sleep Out which appeared in the Bristol Evening Post: does anyone have a contact we could approach?

Julian Trust

Patrick reported that the drinking problem has been much improved by some stern notices in English and Polish threatening to ban offenders.

Crisis Centre Ministries

The new LITE Course has just started, and is currently oversubscribed. It has returned to City Road, because there were too many problems with running the course at the Compass Centre – none of them too serious on their own, but when taken together it was not worth the effort. The extra space had been appreciated, though.

After much effort by various people, CCM are now able to refer people to The Well again within the Supporting People system. Alan and Lisa have just received the necessary training.

CCM are looking seriously at three possible new buildings, all in the Stapleton Road and Old Market Street area. They need to move to get extra space for the Wild Goose, but once that has moved the existing building might be suitable for providing some kind of wet centre. But all of this is strictly speculation at present. Paul asked everyone to pray about their building situation, and to keep their eyes open for suitable premises.

Bristol Methodist Centre

The Bristol Methodist Centre are working to make the general drop in service more robust by increasing the number of support volunteers. They have a new cook: the former client who was working as their cook was not able to do the job, but it was good to have given him the opportunity.

They are reorganising the office space upstairs, turning one room into training room, and another into a dedicated support workers' room. They may also use it as a counselling and pastoral care space.

FareShare is now delivering each week, which (with the new chef) has helped to improve the quality of the food being offered, and increased their numbers. They are now averaging 60 meals a day, which is around 20 more than they were serving six months ago.

Through a contact with Bristol City College, someone is coming in and running basic IT classes. The Novas Tenancy Support Team are supposed to be running a drop-in, but this has been irregular. The Outreach Team don't seem to be leaving the Compass Centre much: they were seen today for the first time in several months.

Notified Business

Sleep-out

Apart from a certain amount of disturbance overnight, people reported that they were happy with the sleep out. It generated an amount of publicity from the Bristol Evening Post and BBC Radio Bristol, plus a news item in Western Eye, the UWE paper. It raised an estimated £8,000 for the homeless organisations taking part. And it provided a useful meeting place: several people reported that they had very much appreciated the opportunity to meet folk from other organisations.

Everyone was keen to repeat the event next year, and to plan further in advance so that more people can be involved. Our grateful thanks went to Tony and the steering group for organising the event, to St John Ambulance for their participation, and to Pip'n'Jay for allowing us to use their building and grounds.

Road Map

There was a discussion of the Road Map currently on the BCAN web site. Feedback so far suggests that it fills an important gap for people working with homeless people in Bristol. Paul explained that the current version is mainly an attempt to clarify what is needed and what information is available, so that a fully functional site can be built in the future. This will enable organisations to update their own details.

Ian asked what help was need to develop the Road Map. Paul said that help was needed on two fronts. Firstly, the rest of the information we have readily to hand needs to be entered. And secondly, we need to identify the gaps in our knowledge and discover how to fill them in.

Other details to consider for the Road Map include: information about AA and NA meetings, churches which are accessible to homeless people listed by denomination and area, information about the 'Debt place' in West Street (does anyone have any more details of this?), information about the main benefits and how you access them, what The Hub does, who can put people into B&B if they need it, what you need to do to be sectioned, what agencies can help with mental health issues, and what counselling is available to homeless people.

It was noted that Job Centre will allow people to use a phone for some reasons not necessarily connected with finding a job. Does anyone have more details of this?

Paul will get in touch with Outreach and ask for their help in filling out the details.

Summer Closures

The Bristol Methodist Centre is not planning to close this Summer, but it will close as usual at Easter. They will open on Good Friday from 10 am to 12 noon, then reopen on 19 April (the Sunday after Easter) at their normal time.

The Wild Goose and St Nicks have no plans to close, either at Easter or over the Summer. Please send details of other services to Paul, so we can publicise the arrangements in advance.

Close

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; 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.alabare.co.uk
- www.bcan.org.uk
- www.bristolsoupruntrust.org.uk
- www.caringinbristol.org
- www.crisis-centre.org.uk
- www.juliantrust.org.uk

Items for Next Agenda

Please let Paul know if you would like anything on the agenda for the May meeting.

Any Other Business

It was reported that the Soup Runs in Brunswick Square have changed again. Paul will try to find out more, but if anyone knows about this, please contact him.

Future Meetings

Details of the next few meetings are as follows. All meetings will start at 7:30 pm and aim to finish by 9:30. Let Paul know if you would like to host one evening.

- 14 May 2009 at the Bristol Methodist Centre, Midland Road.
- 9 July 2009
- 10 September 2009
- 12 November 2009