

**BCAN**  
**Homeless Forum**  
Alabare Christian Care Centres  
The Greenway Centre, Southmead  
9 July 2009

## **Open**

### ***Introduction***

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everybody introduced themselves. Unfortunately, the written notes from the meeting have been misplaced, including details of who was present and apologies received.

### ***Matters Arising From Previous Meeting***

Paul apologised to Gemma Noakes (the Alabaré Area Manager) for spelling her name with a 'J', and to Dush for not providing his full name (Waldemar Duzniak).

## **Information Share**

### ***Compass Centre***

Jonathan Boodle, the Implementation Manager for St Mungos, is keen to be in touch with local people. He can be contacted on (07825) 826 760.

St Mungos will be employing Christian Maenzanise, the present TREE Coordinator, through a TUPE, if he wants to continue working in this role. The current plan is for St Mungos to employ two TREE: ('Training, Recreation, Education and Employment') workers, plus a manager, from 1 October.

We should be receiving a newsletter from St Mungos very soon. Gemma will circulate it.

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

Ian reported that numbers had been slightly down over the past few months after increasing over the Spring.

They are concentrating on training, both for staff and clients. A support worker, Chris, will be one of the first to qualify on a new substance misuse course. Debbie did the Mind mental health first aid course, and found it very good. They will have some 'aggressive incident scenario' training shortly.

Tutors from City of Bristol College are coming and providing training for the clients in a variety of subjects, including creative writing. UKOnline provide some training at Bethesda Church.

They are planning to offer meaningful activity before and after lunch. There seems to be a demand for this from Monday to Thursday. It is a great way to engage with the clients, not dealing with issues directly but providing an opportunity to reach a deeper level with them.

People from the Salvation Army Bridge programme are doing a drop-in at the Bristol Methodist Centre each Thursday between 11:30 and 12:30. They have 12 places available, and outreach workers come in to recruit. They had an open evening at Logos House recently. People have to be referred, then interviewed. The SA are struggling to cater for the women, and will possibly do some joint work with The Well.

Bristol Nightstop came to visit recently. They are planning to extend the number of people who can refer to their service.

The Centre had a cook who was very good, but has moved and now has a new job. They will be interviewing on Monday 20 July; the closing date for applications is Thursday 16 July. Ex-service users must have been stable and not users of the service for a year.

## ***Alabaré***

Gemma started on 1 May as the Areas Services Manager, with responsibility for Lazarus House and The Well. The restructure is not yet complete.

Lazarus House has been running as a dry house, but now no longer requires mandatory drug testing. It is run as an ex-offenders house and not a dry house for ex-offenders. Several residents want a dry house, but that is not being offered. Ten beds are being funded by Supporting People.

They are talking to the owner of Kuvuka, who wants to pass it on to a Christian organisation. This would provide opportunities for volunteer to work there.

They have been offered a 4 bed house in Weston super Mare, which could become another place for ex-servicemen.

## ***St Nicholas of Tolentino***

Nothing new to report. They are offering hot drinks and cheese sandwiches 7 days a week for 2 hours each day (10-12 noon Monday to Saturday, 5-7 pm Sunday). They feed 25-30 people each day.

## ***Caring at Christmas***

Beverley is now at Caring at Christmas and Nightstop full time, Claire and Rhian provide the administration. They will have an Open Day, possibly on 1 October.

Nightstop volunteers are vetted and trained as hosts and supported to offer young people (16-25) somewhere to stay for 1-3 nights. They had 125 referrals in Bristol last year. They plan to develop the service in North Somerset, and want to set up a driver scheme.

Does anyone want to become a referral agency? Training is needed, but this is not onerous.

There is a big need for drivers. The Bristol Methodist Centre regularly has people needing transport. Alan at CCM regularly drives people. Maybe we should think about a bigger scheme?

### ***Julian Trust***

No major news. Numbers fluctuate from day to day, for no obvious reason. They generally serve 60-80 meals a night, sometimes more.

They are working on improving communication with people who have an interest in their activities, and have recently produced a newsletter. They are putting together a database of volunteers.

In general, there are enough volunteers, but getting the people to stay overnight is difficult, especially on Friday and Saturday nights. And this gets even more difficult over the Summer.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please come on a Wednesday evening at 8:30 pm and Jenny will provide some orientation.

### ***CCM***

CCM has been looking for a larger venue for the Coffee Shop for some time. There has been quite a bit of activity recently. The Junction, a pub very close to the Wild Goose, looked very plausible for a while but it was sold last Thursday. A survey has been undertaken on the Queen Vic at the bottom of Stapleton Road, and this is now looking like the most likely candidate.

Two new staff have recently started and are settling in well, but there have been several recent problems with health and accidents.

### ***Bristol Soup Run Trust***

There have been a few grumblings at Pip 'n' Jay: sometimes not everyone gets food.

## **Notified Business**

### ***Summer Closures***

The Julian Trust will be closed from 23 August – 6 September, opening again on 7 September.

### ***Sleep Out***

Paul will confirm the sleep out date with Pip 'n' Jay. He will meet with Ian and Gemma to do some planning.

### ***Road Map***

Please will everyone read it, asking questions from their own perspective, and email Paul with any missing details or corrections.

## **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](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](http://www.alabare.co.uk)
- [www.bcan.org.uk](http://www.bcan.org.uk)
- [www.bristolsouptrust.org.uk](http://www.bristolsouptrust.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)

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

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

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

There was no other business.

### ***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.

- 10 September 2009 at the Julian Trust in Little Bishop Street.
- 12 November 2009
- 14 January 2010

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