

**BCAN**  
**Homeless Forum**  
Julian Trust NightShelter  
10 September 2009  
DRAFT

## **Open**

### ***Introduction***

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

### ***Those Present***

Present at the meeting were: Paul Hazelden (CCM – Chair); Val Moore (CC Clifton); Matt Albury (SA Logos House); Waldemar Duzniak ('Dush' – Julian Trust); and Ian Webb (Bristol Methodist Centre – Minutes).

### ***Apologies Received***

Apologies had been received from: John (SA), Bev (Caring @ Christmas), Ian & Tracey (SA); James Clarke (Tikambilanie)

### ***Corrections***

Bridge Prog. Probs with electronic doors with male & female clients mixing. This is the reason for referring women to the Well, i.e. to protect their safety.

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

Paul

## **Information Share**

### ***Matt Albury – Salvation Army Logos House***

Won some money – SP innovation – assertive alcohol support scheme (73% of evictions in level one hostels was down to alcohol related behaviour). For those folk its about harm reduction messages, trying to help them control their behaviour. The scheme is about maintaining people in their accommodation. Matt has until Jan before the project goes live with two x 40 hour support workers, each with a caseload of up to 32. They will take an 'assertive outreach' approach.

Bridge Programme – there is a lack of folk coming into residential rehab. Community care assessment has made it difficult to get people through – spreading the process over several meetings and making it much slower. People are dropping out because of this system. Ian commented that Brian (Bridge outreach worker) had been

doing a grand a job by coming into the Bristol Methodist Centre drop in every Thursday (amongst others).

Life in the hostel: Last few weeks have been marred by racist incidents and threats of violence, this has led to a spate of evictions, against the trend.

A couple of posts are being advertised.

### ***Ian Webb – Bristol Methodist Centre***

Ian reported that much of his time over the summer had been spent trying to get courses up and running; it had been a frustratingly slow process. A tutor from City of Bristol College is coming to the Centre on Thursday afternoons to develop a literacy programme for the guests; and it is hoped that a proposed arrangement with Bethesda Methodist Church's UK Online Centre may result in some computer sessions on Tuesday afternoons.

A new cook was appointed in July.

Guest numbers have been very high, partly due to the summer closures of Candle, Sisters of the Church and Julian Trust.

### ***Dush – Julian Trust***

Things are going well. Nothing major to report.

Closure of Compass Centre is a worry i.e. closure of the proposed 'day centre' provision at 10pm might see a late rush of people to the night shelter. Also, with the night centre closing, Julian Trust has a very limited capacity to increase the bed space; they have 15 currently and 18 is the absolute limit; however there are personnel issues: they need to maintain one volunteer for every 10 guests; and don't want people too cramped. Will start monitoring turnaway numbers so that they have some measure of the number who are not being accommodated. Need more info from St Mungos.

Waiting for restocking of provisions. Anticipating a lot of harvest donations over coming months.

Progressing on new website, launch in the next month or so. Should be straightforward to maintain. Having a corporate brand. The website is a main source in terms of recruiting volunteers. Wants some good photography.

### ***Val Moore – Christ Church, Clifton***

Still doing Sat morning Breakfast Run. But there have been some amendments to the routine.

Runs Churches Together Lunch run on Saturdays in Clifton, Queens Road to City Centre.

St John's Ambulance. Researching homelessness with other forces, e.g. in Brighton. Doing Weds nights drop in at Julian Trust. Foot care is the biggest need. Wound care will be provided. General health chats. General health leaflet is being explored after user feedback. It will be a nurse led clinic. Some practicalities to be worked out.

Val joined Queen's Nursing Institute Homeless Health group. They've received funding from the Lottery. Essentially it's a group for nurses working with the homeless. Val is going to Birmingham at end of month for a meeting.

## ***CCM – Paul Hazelden***

Two new staff members settled in and functioning well.

Hoping to start opening on Saturday morning from 17th October, assuming volunteers can be attracted.

Getting very close to a decision about a new building for the coffee shop; hoping to get the go ahead for a new place at Easton at upcoming board meeting. Working in partnership with ECFC and St Nicks. Paul estimates that it will take at least three months to purchase, and a further 4-6 months to refurbish. They will need to fit a new kitchen and rebuild a staircase. Matt recommended a Christian Charity called Brass Tacks who used to provide builders, etc – they could be approached for help.

CCM talking to folk from Safer Bristol about lack of alcohol provision – treatment beds x 1 for whole Bristol with a massive waiting list. Inconsistency in approach; need more money for alcohol provision.

Residential Drug treatment – policy is to place Bristol addicts in Bristol but CCM feel that people can be more successfully treated elsewhere, especially where individuals lack a good social network outside of substance users. There appears to be no stats-based research to back up this view. Matt Albury said that there are some folk talking about moving people out of areas but Bristol City Council block buys beds; its driven by cost, i.e. who can provide the best value treatment centre.

Matt said that clients that tend to walk away from treatment are those who have relationships with an active local connection (e.g. a partner). Paul says this proves his point but there does not seem to be any research to back this up. NTA is the only measure of successful completion of programme and it is a crude instrument.

ISA – Independent Safeguarding Authority: CRB checks are going to be now undertaken by this body, rather than by individual organisations. A new list is going to be drawn up of people who are 'safeguarded', made up of people who apply for CRBs. All the judgement is being taken by the ISA rather than by the organisation; leaving no possibility of individual organisations having any say over who they take on. Many volunteers may be excluded because of prior convictions, even though these may have no bearing on the role they want to do.

Legislation comes into effect in November. Volunteers will have to pay for their own ISA check which could put them off.

Blanket 'on list' or 'off list' approach will have impact on organisations like ours and CCM feel it has not been well thought through and we should make some noises about it.

## **Notified Business**

### ***Sleep Out***

Paul, Ian & Gemma failed to meet (Ian was ill); and another date is being arranged. 26th Feb (Pip n Jay booked verbally). Val Moore CC Clifton lady agreed to get a team of folk from St John's Ambulance to man the evening. PH said we need to get publicity out asap; we also need to go through risk assessment. Publicity consisted of an email requesting groups to sign up; a standard info leaflet; and template sponsorship forms. Then each org arranged their own people to sleep out. BEP and Radio Bristol; and ITV crew were interested in last year's story. Around £10,000 was raised last year.

Matt Albury mentioned that the group of young people were very noisy and it might be good to have something to occupy them, e.g. a video indoors. Ideas to group please. Having a get-together (e.g. meeting others, prayers, worship) at the start would be a good idea. – Add this into the planning stage.

### ***Road Map***

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

### ***Food provision collaborative working***

IW wanted to raise issue of duplication of services, especially food provision. We need to get a grid together and keep it updated. Need information in a digestible format. The SA in Bristol are reviewing their provision, to ensure needs are being met. They are exploring a tiered option (free basic meal or pay nominal amount for) gives people an incentive

CCM want to charge people a small amount for food.

The one page food summary sheet need to be reinstated and revised.

Matt kindly offered his Admin team as a resource to produced this! The electronic version is currently on the BCAN website as an excel spreadsheet. The SA admin could keep this up-to-date.

Incidentally Matt's understanding is that the Candle Project is going to continue with its food provision on Sundays.

### ***Compass Centre***

It is understood that the CLG did not think it was going to be dormitory style night provision (i.e. they were expecting it to be cordoned off). ECHG ran it for £600k but the new tender was for only £500k. It was decided before tender but never publicised that the night centre would be closed.

Latest news is that they intend to employ six generic homelessness workers rather than specialists; and two TREE workers. The 'drop in' service, if indeed takes that form will only be in the early evenings.

## ***The New Street Day Centre***

The Council put it out to tender under the title, “Wellbeing and Mental Health Centre”; the closing date is 18th Sept. The situation is complicated by the fact that the current contractor, Novas Scarman, have a 100 year lease on the building.

The Wet Centre provision is continuing as well as new Women only sessions.

## ***Tikambilanie***

Are an organisation involved in community development in a rural African context. They have lots of experience engaging with communities and addressing social problems through conversation and then presenting dramatic artwork to authorities. They now want to come to Bristol to do this here, e.g. on homelessness or street drinking. They Have funding to bring work to Bristol.

We could invite Cardboard Citizens jointly to do something similar if this does not come off (but we'd have to pay).

## **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.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)

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

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

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

Matt to email link on ‘Seeds of Exclusion’ report on SA website.

Paul to send link to Homelessness Strategy ‘No one left out’ to BCAN group.

## ***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.

- 12 November 2009 at Logos House (Car Park at rear, off Little George Street); gather at 7pm for a guided tour.
- 14 January 2010

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