

BCAN

Homeless Forum

Logos House
12 November 2009

Open

Introduction

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everybody introduced themselves. Unfortunately, the list of those who were present has gone missing.

Matt Albury provided a very interesting tour of Logos House.

Previous Meeting

There were no corrections to the notes from the previous meeting.

Tikambilane: what issues would be helpful for them to explore? The difficulty of accessing alcohol detox and the wait for it would be one obvious possibility. Is there a web site for them? Paul talked briefly about his meeting with them.

The 2008 Salvation Army report "Seeds of Exclusion" was updated in 2009. Many people reported issues from their childhood as the reason for homelessness, which is why new focus of the Salvation Army is on working with children and families. There is a link to the report from salvationarmy.org.uk.

Information Share

Wild Goose

The Wild Goose is serving 250-300 meals every day, Monday-Friday. They have also just started opening on Saturday mornings from 9 am to 12 noon. This last Saturday they served 85 people; the previous week it was 45 people, of whom 11 were rough sleepers.

Next week they are planning to do a night run to try and count homeless people. Last March they counted 46, and are interested to see how the numbers have changed. The count will include Leigh Woods, and they plan to finish at 6 am having breakfast at Trinity Tabernacle.

CCM is continuing to work with people from a wide area. For example, Alan will be taking someone from Bournemouth to a rehab in Stroud next week.

Alan is also going into schools more frequently than before, talking to the children about homelessness, about the consequences of not talking to parents or friends about problems, and about the consequences of relying on drugs. The aim is not to tell them what to do, but to help them see the choices they have and understand the consequences of those choices.

Alan runs a Life Recovery Group in Clevedon which is now well established, so he will start up the local group again.

There are a lot of squats popping up in St Pauls. One house has 24 people in it, mostly youngsters from outside Bristol; many are from Brighton at present, escaping the Ketamine scene there.

Salvation Army Candle Community Centre

Candle doesn't open on the 5th Sunday of each month, but they plan to open on the other Sundays. They are short of volunteers, and have no paid employees working with homeless people at present. They have a slot for two new teams, and are looking for volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is no obvious pattern to the number of people being fed: on Tuesdays, from 2-4 pm they feed between 30 and 110 people.

The community work is going well, with referrals from the Police amongst others. Helping to keep families together is also an aspect of homelessness prevention. They take non-Christian volunteers, so CCM could refer offers of help to them. All the volunteers are CRB checked. They need people who are capable in the kitchen. Last Sunday they fed 119 people in 1 hour.

They have recently been doing lots of work with schools, especially over harvest time.

Next year will be the 130th anniversary, during which they plan to launch the building programme to replace the community centre, and possibly extend on the other side into the area with the caravans as well. Please pray for this. The church can regenerate the area, and must take up the challenge as the council and the business community have not managed it.

They are working with Love Bristol who do a lot in St Pauls and Stokes Croft.

They love the art work being done by PRSC (the "People's Republic of Stokes Croft") in the area, but the art has spilled over into tagging which is not good, and they feel it may also spill over into crime.

They will be attending another Stokes Croft meeting this coming Wednesday, 18 November, from 6-8 pm.

They are having an internal discussions about food provision, and should have more to say about this next time.

Seventh Day Adventists

They are providing food in the Bear Pit on Sundays. CCM has offered to provide an indoor venue for serving the food, but they have not yet responded to this offer.

The idea has been floated that the Seventh Day Adventists and Vineyard might set up a food bank. It is not clear how this would differ from the work being done by FareShare.

New Street Day Centre

The New Street Day Centre will be opening a night shelter for women in December.

Sisters of the Church

The project 'grew like Topsy' under Sister Annaliese. Their numbers are down at present from 4 sisters to 2. In addition, two sisters come from Clevedon twice a week, and they hope to have a third person living with them soon. They could also have volunteers living with them: this has happened in the past. They are managing to sustain the same level of ministry, but not quite as much outreach. On Sundays they provide an average of 180 food parcels each week. During the week, from Monday to Wednesday they do food parcels for women.

Some people come because it is a community: there is a terrific sense of community, a place to meet and chat. People need to belong. Some people come for years, which raises the question of how much are they being helped to move on?

The Sisters of the Church were closed for 7 weeks over the summer, but others picked up the slack. They will be closed for 2 weeks after Easter next year due to diary bookings, and will probably be closed for 4 or 5 weeks this coming Summer for maintenance work.

A lot of different people are involved as volunteers, often as a result of them writing to the parishes, but the Sisters do not get them CRB checked.

The Sisters also have houses in Canada, which are in a quite different situation – for example, people come with tickets from the social services to get help.

They have seen a lot of new faces over the past three months. Many of them are well educated.

There is a useful new web site to look at: Diggers and Dreamers ('The Guide to Communal Living in England') - <http://www.diggersanddreamers.org.uk>.

Bristol Methodist Centre

The two main pieces of news are that they have just produced a new newsletter, and Debbie is well now.

They have been quite busy over summer with 'the Ketamine party tribe' but this has tailed off a bit more recently and there have been no major incidents. They generally serve 50-60 meals a day when open, which is historically high. They open from Sunday to Thursday, but the main days are Tuesday to Thursday.

Cutlery is going missing from the Bristol Methodist Centre. (The Ashley Road Salvation Army use all plastic these days, and the Wild Goose is now using polystyrene plates.)

Ian is working on the sleepout next February.

There was some worship on All Saints Day and Remembrance Day: 20-25 people crammed in, paying their respects.

The education program is going well, with a tutor from UK Online, and a tutor from City of Bristol College doing literacy on Thursdays. Katie from Woodlands church is driving the outreach work.

Logos House

There has been some good news on funding for Logos House: Supporting People will continue to fund it up to 2011. The contract did not go out to tender.

There is some concern about Tier 4 (residential) rehabs, with a lack of people going in. They are also being asked to identify their costs, both the fixed and the variable costs. More people are being cared for in the community, kept on scripts and on day programs. The emphasis and majority of funding goes on harm reduction as opposed to abstinence.

They are working on a tender for the Wellbeing Centre.

The Alcohol Assertive Outreach work (who go looking for people if they don't turn up for an appointment) has received funding for 12 months. They try to help people avoid being evicted, and to help them avoid being concerned about losing their home when they come in. They will be recruiting next week. ((ARA and BDP increasing their support for workers in hostels too recently, starting December, which might affect the results of the pilot.)) 7 workers being funded from underspend.

Next year they are planning to offer some Alcohol Awareness training, which they intend to make available to run in our projects.

New literature for the centre is being produced for the open day on Saturday.

Alabaré

Lazarus House is now being used to prepare people for the other two houses, so the residents are allowed to drink. This new system is working well.

Sleepout

We will produce a template sponsorship form in Excel format for people to copy, and an information leaflet and registration form in Word format.

Alabaré use a web site for online giving which is cheaper than Justgiving.

St John Ambulance have confirmed their support, and Pip 'n' Jay have confirmed that we can use their premises and ground. The Police have been informed.

We should have a plan for the night so that the young people who want to stay up all night will be slightly away from the main group.

We need to think more about publicity soon. It was suggested that we make contact with Bristol Community Radio: Mervyn Kemp will probably do a piece on the sleepout. Alan will talk with Ian about publicity in or around the first week of January.

New Street Day Centre

The new contract for the New Street Day Centre will commence from June next year. The aim is to engage people to help with mental health issues, self referral or just walk in with the client.

Discussion

General

Matt Albury recommended that we look up Danielle Strickland on the Internet. She worked for a while in Vancouver, and gave a challenging talk at Spring Harvest.

There was a discussion of tenancy support, and how people can access the help available to them. Sources of support include:

- Council
- Salvation Army Tenancy Support
- Novas Scarman
- Places for People

Survival Handbook

The new Survival Handbook is now available, and also on the Caring at Christmas web site.

The 'Food in Bristol' sheet has also been updated, thanks to Mat.

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 January meeting.

Any Other Business

Matt will email a link to the 'Seeds of Exclusion' report on the Salvation Army website.

Paul will email a link to the Homelessness Strategy 'No one left out' to the 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. Please let Paul know if you would like to host one evening.

- The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 14 January 2010 at St Nicholas of Tolentino [post-meeting note: St Nicks became unavailable, so the next meeting will instead be held at Crisis Centre Ministries, 12 City Road].
- The following meeting will be on **Thursday 4 March** (the first Thursday in March) – not 11 March (the second Thursday) – because Paul will be in Belfast for Jesus in the City then.

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Web site: <http://www.crisis-centre.org.uk>

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Last updated: 17:48 on 14 January 2010

Location: N:\bhf\meet\BHF_Meeting_091112_Notes.odt