

BCAN Homeless Forum

14 January 2010

Crisis Centre Ministries

Open

Present

Present at the meeting were Graham Wheeler (Bristol Soup Run Trust), Val Moore (Christ Church, Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland and St John Ambulance), Paul Hazelden (Crisis Centre Ministries), Waldemar Duzniak ('Dush', Julian Trust Nightshelter), and Ian Webb (Bristol Methodist Centre).

Apologies had been received from Dave Perry (Emmaus Bristol), Alan Goddard (Crisis Centre Ministries), Gemma Nokes (Alabaré) and Clive Richards (King's Kitchen, Trinity Tabernacle).

Previous notes

There was a question about the report from the Bristol Methodist Centre concerning the reference to the 'Ketamine party tribe.' This is a colloquial term used by some people in BDP.

Information Share

Caring at Christmas

This generally went well. Many of the clients were expressing frustration from their failure to cut through red tape or gain employment: for example, one was a lawyer not able to work. The Daily Mail ran a story about Caring at Christmas.

We hope to have a fuller report at the next meeting.

Bristol Soup Run Trust

Graham reported that all nights are now covered. They have had three new teams set up recently, including a monthly one being led by a man from the Nottingham Vineyard and who started a new church at Severnside. Graham now has 8 new trustees, 4 of the previous ones having moved on. They are in the process of revising their health and safety policy.

There was some good publicity around Christmas: they received lots of supplies and some money. There have been recent grants from the Broadmead Box appeal, Pret a Manger and Street Smart. There was a barbecue in the Autumn at Pip 'n' Jay which went well. The meetings held every other month are prospering; the next is Tuesday week.

The number of people fed each night varies a lot: last Saturday it was 32, but sometimes the feed up to 60 people a night. They tell the clients to go to the Compass Centre.

They are worried about the new vetting and barring scheme. Graham rang Homeless Link, who told him not to worry about it this year: the new rules may start to be applied to volunteers next year. At present, the volunteers are not CRB checked.

Volunteers continue to come in from the web site, and can't all be placed in teams. If BSRT are oversubscribed with volunteers, Dush suggested that anyone who can't be placed in a soup run team could be referred to Jenny Oates at Julian Trust.

Cold Weather

The Salvation Army and Compass Centre have been taking people off the streets overnight while the Cold Weather Protocol was in effect, which helped a great deal. 12 people were taken off the streets at the Salvation Army in Logos House, and 8 were taken at the Compass Centre. Access to both of these for any future cold weather is through the Outreach Team in the Compass Centre.

Ian reported that The Hub has now closed. Customer service points refer people to the compass centre. Do the Customer service points have the necessary expertise?

Bristol Methodist Centre

In November, the Bristol Methodist Centre were busy serving 60 meals a day, and remained busy in December, with 80 at the Christmas lunch. Separate meal and gifts were provided during the following week.

We ought to share information about Christmas events next year, not just the closure periods.

They closed from 25 December to 5 January, which is longer than would have liked. The aim is to close for a shorter period next year, preferably just one week.

A successful day was held for link people in November: they were invited into the centre and asked if they want to volunteer. Other new people are also volunteering.

Bristol City College are running a programme for volunteers, to give them accreditation. We are not clear about the level of commitment required: Ian will ask about this and report back.

A couple of services have been held in the chapel at Advent and Christmas Eve. They worked well, and people were glad to take part.

Christ Church, Clifton

Val reported that numbers for the early Saturday Breakfast Run went up in November and stayed up; they are now serving 40-50 people, mostly in the Bear Pit.

The Christ Church volunteers all have CRB checks.

Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland

The Lunch Runs have been making up at least 60 lunches during December. Boxing Day was a Saturday this year, and they only served 6 people; but Caring at Christmas could take the food so it was not wasted.

They are finding it difficult to get all months covered, especially August.

St John Ambulance

St John are running a nurse led clinic on Wednesday nights at Julian Trust: Val thinks this will continue. They need a combination of visibility and privacy. They provide physical treatments for 6 to 10 people each week, and talk with and give advice to others. Feet are a major problem; they have been given money for a supply of socks. They also see various minor problems which become infected, like ulcers at injection sites.

They give leaflets to encourage people to access the Homeless Health Service, and encourage them to go there or to Accident and Emergency for follow up.

Crisis Centre Ministries and the Wild Goose

Paul talked about the new building they are intending to buy: the Queen Vic pub in Stapleton Road. A former member of the pub staff is still living there, and the solicitors cannot finalise the sale until he leaves.

CCM expect the people at St Nicholas of Tolentino to run their service from the new building once it is opened, essentially forming another church team.

The coffee shop is opening every Saturday morning now, and has also opened on the past few Sunday mornings because of the cold weather.

Julian Trust Nightshelter

Dush apologised for missing the previous meeting: this had clashed with their AGM. The AGM had gone well, and they had successfully launched their new web site. This has various new features; it is now easier to give online, which has worked well so far. The site had 500 visitors in the first month.

The Julian Trust was very busy over the past couple of months and are very pushed for space despite the fact that they have installed an extra 3 beds, so they now have a full capacity of 18 beds. The Julian Trust Carol Service went well in mid December.

Julian Trust have built a volunteer database. They have 90 individual volunteers, 25 of whom stay overnight. They would need another 10 or 15 volunteers in order to open for another night. But they would probably also run short of food if they opened more nights. In any case, they need more volunteers, especially for the overnight stay. Another concern is that the rent goes up substantially every 5 years.

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 BHF home page (<http://www.bcan.org.uk/bhf>), or go directly to the page at http://www.bcan.org.uk/bhf/12_homeless_docs.html; they are also available on paper 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/bhf
- 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 March meeting.

Any Other Business

Paul asked people to note that The Homeless Forum has had to move from March 11 to March 4, and one of the training sessions (at Trinity Tabernacle) has moved from March 13 to March 6. The other March session is unchanged on 10 March at 12 City Road.

There is a reported recent increase in the number of people living in squats in the St Pauls area. Graham noted that many people were living in squats when the Bristol Soup Run Trust started.

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 at the Julian Trust Nightshelter on **Thursday 4 March** (the first Thursday in March) – not 11 March (the second Thursday, as usual) – because Paul will be in Belfast for Jesus in the City then.
- The following meeting will be (as usual) on Thursday 13 May.