

# **BCAN Homeless Forum**

## **4 March 2010**

### **Julian Trust Nightshelter**

## **Open**

### *Present*

The meeting date had been moved, and only Ian Webb (Bristol Methodist Centre), Waldemar Duzniak ('Dush', Julian Trust Nightshelter) and Paul Hazelden (Crisis Centre Ministries) could attend.

### *Apologies*

Apologies had been received from various people, including Ian Mountford (Salvation Army), Clive Richards (King's Kitchen, Trinity Tabernacle), Sister Bernadette (St Nicholas of Tolentino), Gemma Nokes (Alabaré) and Val Moore (Christ Church, Clifton).

### *Previous Meeting*

The notes from the previous meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

In response to the outstanding question, Ian reported that volunteers are meeting every week or every two weeks for an hour or two to work towards their accreditation. However, college funding has been cut so the programme is likely to close in June. It is probably too late for any new people to join the programme.

## **Information Share**

### *Sleep Out*

Feedback from the night is good: despite the rain, people said they were glad they took part. Several people felt that the rain made the experience a bit more authentic: a little suffering helps us understand better what people who are really sleeping rough have to endure.

Our records from the evening have 84 people sleeping out, and an estimated £13,800 sponsorship promised to the people who could give an estimate. As several people were unable to give a figure, a reasonable estimate at this stage is £15,000.

Ian is collecting pictures and stories from people who took part. Paul will email Ian links to Andy Lampard and Ed Marsh, who have both written something about the sleep out. Paul will also ask for some further feedback from the group organisers.

### *Crisis Centre Ministries and Wild Goose*

Paul reported on progress with the new building. The detailed plans are being drawn up, but at present he anticipates the initial building work will take around six

months, after which the Wild Goose will move from City Road to Stapleton Road. Then further work will take place upstairs before the rest of the building is occupied.

The reason for getting more space is not to serve food to more people, but to provide more space and more comfort, in order to encourage the clients to stay for longer so that the staff and volunteers can engage the clients more effectively. It will also provide space for outside groups to use, where they can come in, meet people and provide advice or clinics on site.

A better kitchen should enable the food to be prepared with less effort, but more volunteers will be needed – partly to spend time with the clients, and partly to ensure safety and order: it will be harder to close down a bigger space. However, two exits will make it easier to empty the new coffee shop.

There had been a good level of publicity for the work following their recent appearance on the ‘Secret Millionaire’ with a number of other television and radio features. One point to note is that the generous donation has already been spent: it was used several months ago to help them buy the Queen Vic, and they are now seeking to raise another £200,000 to renovate and refit the building for use as a coffee shop.

There is also a possibility of setting up a charity shop in Clevedon, in association with Alabaré. The plan, if it happens, is to use this as a way to gain experience in running charity shops, so that further shops can be opened in Bristol, possibly in partnership with other groups.

Next week Paul will be meeting Ian Mountford from the Salvation Army Ashley Road and Candle Community Centre. [Ian noted that when the Candle Community Centre does not open, this significantly increases the number of people using the Bristol Methodist Centre.]

### *Julian Trust Nightshelter*

The Julian Trust have been very busy over the past few months, having the maximum number of 18 people on most nights. The three additional beds (one on each wall), and hence the reduction in personal space, have caused no problems, but they can't fit in any more beds. Guests abide by the no drinking and no smoking rules. Every night there are a few beds reserved for particularly needy and vulnerable people.

Paul will update the Julian Trust details on the ‘Places in Bristol offering food, help and advice’ sheet. They serve hot food from 9.30 to 10.30 pm, then offer sandwiches from the back door. The 18 people staying overnight are offered a shower and washing and laundry facilities as well as breakfast in the morning. They usually get 80-100 people for the hot food, and serve 25-30 sandwiches.

A few new volunteers have been recruited from the people who helped Caring at Christmas. They hope to have one or two new overnight volunteers from this group.

A newsletter has recently been sent to 90 supporters and friends, and produced a good response. They have been chosen as the charity of the year for a firm of solicitors and for the City of Bristol college.

One recipient of the newsletter was Jeremy Townsend from St Mungos. They want

to work more closely with the Julian Trust, and the Julian Trust will publicise activities and services at the Compass Centre, both verbally and with posters. The Outreach team come in on Monday night. Dush is not clear why they do not come on other nights.

A major cost is the utilities bill. A group called Carbon Ambassadors will do a carbon audit and try to help them save energy.

They have drawn up a policy as a response to the vetting and barring regulations: they are looking after vulnerable adults, so all the management and regular volunteers (working more than two sessions a month) need enhanced CRB checks.

## ***Bristol Methodist Centre***

Ian reported that the Bristol Methodist Centre had a slow start to the year. This was probably due to the cold weather making the clients who have some form of accommodation reluctant to come out. Numbers have subsequently picked up and are now back to normal.

UK Online run a session on Tuesday afternoon each week, which is very popular. A regular time helps, each person is assessed and a tailored training provided for each one. They have five computers on site but need to bring a few additional laptops because of the demand.

UK Online need more volunteers to extend their service. Ian is on their board as a *quid pro quo* for providing the service at the Bristol Methodist Centre.

The literacy session is still running, but it seems that the funding is now at risk.

The aim is to have two support volunteers on duty at all times they are open, which is now happening. They engage with the clients, offer advice, take people upstairs to use the phone, and generally work to build stronger relationships. As a result, they have four people based at the centre when they are open. People build relationships with specific clients, but they can also cover for each other. When needed Ian is still involved, but he does not have to spend so much time covering gaps.

The Life Recovery Group, a Woodlands' initiative meeting at Pip 'n' Jay, is going well and is very supportive for the members. They use the 'Life Recovery Bible' which includes notes written to help recovering addicts. They have mentors and buddies like a 12 Step group. The group is happy for others to send them people who want to explore faith, and Ian would encourage us to refer people to them. The mentors occasionally meet at the Bristol Methodist Centre for their support sessions.

Ian currently has a glut of chocolate and biscuits, and is willing to offer them on generous terms.

As in previous years, the Bristol Methodist Centre will be closing for a week at Easter, but Ian hopes that this will be the last year in which this happens. They will be open on Good Friday from 10 am to 12 noon, and then close for the following week

## **Other**

The New Street Day Centre is changing hands from the start of June: St Mungos and Second Step will jointly run it as a Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre.

We don't get the regular updates from Paul Talbot at the Council any more. These are missed.

Ollie is now doing another job: he is the manager of the 'Private Renting Team' seeking to maximise access to and sustainment in private rented accommodation. For details of the new council teams, please see the 'Organisations' section of the BHF roadmap.

## *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 May meeting.

## 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 on 13 May, hosted by Alabaré at the Greenway Centre. It is on the first floor, at the end of a long corridor: it is probably best to go to the main reception desk and ask for directions
- The following meeting will be on 8 July at the Bristol Methodist Centre.

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