

BCAN Homeless Forum

Caring at Christmas

8 September 2011

Open

Present

Present were Paul Hazelden (Crisis Centre Ministries), Rhianân Lowes (Caring at Christmas), Val Moore (Christ Church, Clifton and Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham & Redland) and Graham Wheeler (Bristol Soup Run Trust).

Apologies had been received from Alan Goddard (Crisis Centre Ministries), Richard Drake (Julian Trust), Naomi Millner (Bristol Hospitality Network), Clive Richards (Trinity Tabernacle / King's Kitchen), Andy Busfield (Alabaré), Matthew G (Matthew Tree Project).

Previous Meeting

There was one correction to the notes from the previous meeting: Positive Changes is not a Christ church activity.

Matters Arising

Christ Church have not fixed a date on which to invite Rhianân yet, but it will be a Friday evening. This will probably be fixed tomorrow night.

There will be a Women's Wellbeing meeting on Thursday 15 September, from 9.30 – 12.30 at Easton Community Centre. Gemma Myers has invited Rhianân.

A person from Positive Changes was going round with a bucket at the Harbour Festival, but the name had changed: it was now called 'Blessed UK' or something similar. They seem to have a base in Wilder Street, near Mamma's Café, but the web site is no longer running. Rhianân will talk to the community police liason about them: apart from any other concerns, we doubt they have a street collection licence.

Information Share

Bristol Soup Run Trust

Graham reported on the Bristol Soup Run Trust.

Philip, the other trustee, recently went to Ireland and broke his leg.

Nick Ball couldn't do a recent Wednesday, but did go out last Wednesday. Nick is trying to get a team together for one or two Wednesdays a month. The volunteers need to be at least 18 years old.

Crofts End had a very difficult time last Thursday, when the Julian Trust was closed.

They have hit a 'brick wall' over the planned barbecue: the new vicar at Pip 'n' Jay doesn't want it held there.

BSRT sometimes get some trouble over the sandwiches – some people want meat, some cheese, and some something else. This can be very frustrating.

In general, it was a better August than last year.

The numbers continue to go up. There are generally 40-60 people at Pip 'n' Jay, and 12-20 people at Redcliffe Wharf.

The next BSRT meeting is at the Easton Salvation Army building in Hassell Drive on 27 September, starting at 8 pm. There will be speakers from St Mungo's and Outreach; everyone is welcome.

Caring at Christmas

They just posted out the last letters to possible volunteers yesterday and have already received 20 application forms and some donations.

They need help with the admin. One lady has offered to do one day a week; and another lady is about to start, also for a day a week.

They are considering extending the opening to the New Year. This idea is being discussed at the Julian Trust – they should hear tomorrow. If agreed, the plan will be to close on Sunday 1 January, probably at 10 am.

The same store person as last year will be working again this year for three months, from November to the end of January. They want to encourage church donations to come in during November – not sooner, if possible.

Sadly, they can't offer to host the next BHF, and possibly will not be able to attend, as they are likely to be busy at that time.

Caring at Christmas only have three trustees left and urgently need some more. There are two possible new ones on the horizon. Olly Swayne is new chair, Hilary Moody the secretary and Phil Somerhays will probably be the treasurer.

They want to look at running some other projects but they need more trustees. Bristol Nightstop is not part of Caring at Christmas any more.

On Saturday 5 November from 10 am to 2 pm there will be an open morning for Caring at Christmas, a chance for people to look round, talk about volunteering and generally find out what they do.

Women's Night Shelter

Paul reported that some of the women who use it have been told that the Women's Night Shelter in New Street will close at the end of September. However, we have been told this in the past and they have found the money to keep going, so the news is not confirmed yet.

Running a Women's Night Shelter is something that Caring at Christmas would like to do: they have been talking with the Julian Trust about this possibility. Jenny is the acting Julian Trust chair. Crisis Centre Ministries have also been planning to open a replacement service if the current shelter closes, and have now been granted planning permission to use the training room for overnight emergency accommodation. The two organisations need to talk further about these plans.

Christ Church, Clifton

Val has not been around much since the last meeting.

They are very interested in trying to establish a common policy for responding to needs when the people are under 16 or under 18. The official response is to contact social services first. But when they don't respond, we still have someone who needs help but doesn't fit our normal systems. Val has a contact: she will talk about it and report back to the next meeting.

St John and Bristol Nights both do a bus in the centre at weekends. Val will also talk with them about young people.

They are aware of a number of missing people, three of whom were found this year at Caring at Christmas. If you become aware of someone who is being looked for, please take a note of their name, their description and the contact details for what to do if they are found. Pass the details to the Julian Trust, Caring at Christmas and CCM.

Graham is often being asked for help in finding people, and also being asked for help by homeless people who have been given his phone number.

Crisis Centre Ministries

Paul reported that the planned wet clinic has not opened yet due to staffing issues. It seems that these should shortly be sorted out. It will be a CCM project but mainly staffed by people from the Homeless Health Service. As part of the consultation, they held a public meeting, and no objections were voiced.

The Chapel Room – otherwise known as the CCM training room – is now finished and being used, at long last. It is available for other groups to use when not being used by CCM, details to be sorted out.

The CCM AGM will be held on October 10, starting at 7,30 pm at the Congregational Church in Stapleton Road – the chapel next door to Carpenter House. There will be food. Everyone is welcome.

The volunteer training starts again this Saturday and next Wednesday: do encourage your people to attend – at least the first session.

Julian Trust

Report from Richard Drake:

We had the celebration of Meg's life on 16 August and it was a great success.

We've re-opened after our 2 week closure with a completely new ceiling in the main room; the lights are very bright now they aren't struggling to shine through faded and yellowed panels, and we hope the increased insulation will help keep fuel bills down.

We tackled the young people issue with a notice (and appropriate action of course). The notice reads

“The Julian Trust cannot provide a service to young people age 17 or under. If we are concerned about your age, we will ask for id and may call emergency social services to ensure you get the support you need.”

This has been successful and the youngsters we were concerned about have had no difficulty (where appropriate) getting proof of age (mostly from Compass Centre), which has reassured our volunteers and helped us understand that they are at least accessing other services where more help is offered.

Alabaré

Andy Busfield is the new Alabaré Bristol Accommodation Services Manager. He sent the following message.

I have attached information leaflets to the email about our services however I would like to draw your attention to a couple of pieces.

- I have recently updated the Information leaflet regarding Charis House
- I have just noticed that the Well's leaflet needs updating – I am the contact for The Well as opposed to Catherine, but the number is the same. We should have an up-to-date leaflet soon.
- We have an Open Day coming up at Lazarus House which other agencies are welcome to attend. If you could pass this to the attendee I would be very grateful.
- You may already be familiar with the other services but I have attached an information leaflet in case.

Paul will pass on the information leaflets on request – they are too big to send round to everyone on the mailing list.

Matthew Tree Project

Report from Mark Goodway.

Thursdays is when I do the Helping Vulnerable People training so I am very sorry but won't be able to join you tonight. We are on session 6 this evening. When we get to the end we are going to have a 3 week break and then start again but on a Monday night so going forward I would still be able to be part of the BCAN Homeless Forum.

Please pass on my apologies to the others and below is my update to you all on TMTP.

- 1) During the month of June the congregation of Elim gave £100,000 towards the

renovation of the A'court Building that will house TMTP. The A'court building will not be made exclusively available for TMTP but a significant amount of it will. Elim are currently evaluating various plans and proposals as to how exactly to do the work.

2) So far TMTP is being partnered by Elim, St Matthews, Severn Vineyard. Holy Trinity Hotwells and Horfield Baptist have expressed an interest to support the work and over the next 4-6 weeks I will be visiting both to discuss this further.

3) Throughout the month of August, we supported the children of Cabot primary School, St Pauls, who are on free school meals. We were able to provide food for 29 children in total from 14 different families and supplied 560 meals. We have also started building relationships with the mothers of the 29 children that are very positive and will be ongoing. For example, in addition to coming for the food some mothers also have started to come to the weekly mothers and tots at Elim church and some of the older teenage brothers and sisters of the children we fed have come to the Elim youth event on Friday evenings. We are presently signing up referral agencies to refer people in emergency need to us and hope to have this all set up and in place to co-inside with the completion of the first wave of training of Outreach Support Carers on 6 October.

4) We are on session 6 of the Helping vulnerable people training. 31 people have signed up (and are doing it!). We only offer the option of a charge of £25 to go on the course, we do not offer any other options. There is already a short list of people interested to do it when we start it again at the end of October (going forward it will be held on Monday evenings with one all day Saturday session for session 7). This is open to all and we do have some that are from other churches and work for other organisations.

5) We have gained the support of Asda at a regional level and have an agreement in place to conduct regular food appeal collections from ASDA stores at Cribbs Causeway, Bedminster, Longwell Green and Whitchurch. Currently the agreement is for 3 week intervals but we have the option to increase this when our need for food increases. At the first Asda collection at Cribbs Causeway we had 24 volunteers throughout the day drawn from 4 different churches and 2 who do not attend a church at all and we received 1067kg of food. Our next food appeal collection is next Monday 12 September and we need volunteers for this. The day is split into three sessions, morning (9am-12.30pm), afternoon (1pm-5.30pm) and evening (6pm-9pm). Please spread the word and ask anyone interested to help to contact me. Thank you.

6) TMTP has been asked to join as a member of the steering group for the proposed Stokes Croft Market. The first meeting was this week (Wed 7th) and was very positive. Other members of the steering group are Coexist, The Canteen, Community Kitchen, No.51 Stokes Croft, The Full Moon, and Hamilton House. All have come to this from different perspectives but the one common thread is the desire for the market to benefit the people of the local community. I think this is a great opportunity for people out of work long term to have an outlet for their creativity which will earn them money. It gets them thinking productively, working on something and with an opportunity to earn money from it. The market will be for food (fresh), arts, crafts, clothes, music, all locally produced by local people and will be every Saturday commencing in December 2011.

7) We are currently working to develop specialist training and a service for debt/budgeting support and advise and are talking to CAP and BDAC.

8) We are currently working to develop specialist training and a service for help people out of addiction and are talking to Life For The World and The Nilaari Agency.

9) On Sunday we have a team of 14 people running the Bristol Half Marathon to raise much needed funds and awareness of TMTP and our fight against poverty in Bristol.

I hope you all have a good meeting.

God bless

Mark

King's Kitchen

Clive sent his apologies and asked that people note that the King's Kitchen (run at Trinity Tabernacle on Tuesday mornings) now opens at 4 am, not 5 am.

Notified Business

Young People

We will come back to this subject next meeting.

Bristol Open Doors

We remind you all that you are welcome to visit the Julian Trust shelter as part of 'Open Doors' day this Saturday 10 September.

Sleep out

The date is now confirmed as Friday 2 March 2012. We assume people will do much the same as last year, so the organisation should be minimal. Rhianân will circulate the details and promote it over Christmas.

Survey

The current plan is for the following organisations to take part in the survey:

- Christ Church breakfast run
- CTCC&R Saturday lunch run
- Bristol Nights
- St John city centre bus
- The Wild Goose (Crisis Centre Ministries)
- possibly Bristol Foyer (a safe place for young people, part of Connexions, who deal with housing – Rhianân will approach them)

- Momma's Café (again, Rhianân will approach them)

Close

Any Other Business

There was no other business

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at CCM, Carpenter House, on Thursday 10 November, from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. *[Note: meeting subsequently moved to One25, 138a Grosvenor Road.]*

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