

BCAN Homeless Forum
10th January 2013

<p>Present: Paul, Hazel, Val, Kevin, Richard, Graham Apologies: Debs, Rhiannon, Jill, Elaine, Alan</p>	ACTION
<p>Actions from last meeting</p>	
<p>Email previous minutes Nobody received last meetings notes. Hazel to make amendments, check the email group and resend.</p> <p>Alan will provide Val with the phone number of the nurse who works for the Homeless Health Service.</p>	<p>Hazel</p> <p>Alan</p>
<p>Information Share</p>	
<p>Soup Run – Graham Every night of the year is now covered with most teams being church teams. On the way to the ballet at the Hippodrome last night Graham met a homeless man called Patrick who had a trolley full of cardboard for the rough sleepers who were planning on bedding down outside the Hippodrome itself. Patrick also mentioned that there were an increasing number of rough sleepers in Clifton.</p> <p>Graham is meeting a number of people who don't want to use the nightshelter, or even Caring at Christmas</p> <p>The Soup Run usually feeds around 50 people at the beginning of the week with the figure rising to around 80 on Saturday and Sunday.</p> <p>The people the Soup Run meets with are usually loners, people who don't advertise their needs, often immigrants, often with some degree of mental illness.</p> <p>Graham makes 70 corned beef sandwiches and he asks the volunteers to bring along extra, especially cheese. The teams also give out clothes, waterproof ponchos, toiletries, shoes, socks etc.</p> <p>There has been large increase in the amount of interest in volunteering and donating over the Christmas period. Waitrose gave a £3000 donation.</p> <p>The Soup Run website is very good so people are able to connect and support from all over the country from all sorts of organisations and businesses.</p> <p>Graham finds it difficult to get the different team together for training, communication etc. There are now 23 team functioning mostly independent of each other however they do all feed from the same locations.</p> <p>Julian Trust – Richard Richard gave advance notice of the summer closure of the Nightshelter. Julian Trust will shut on 19th August and re-open on 3rd of September.</p> <p>Vanessa still has not been diagnosed as having any significant mental health problems and so is not getting the support she needs.</p> <p>No Second Night - Richard They have given the Julian Trust appointments cards, pre-printed with the Julian Trust logo. These are handed out to anyone who is new at the Nightsetler directing them to the Compass Centre. Someone from the Julian Trust then emails or text the Compass Centre with their name to validate the appointment.</p>	

Everyone agreed that it would be good to have these cards at other service providers. Richard recommended getting in touch with St Mungos to get a hold of them.

Safe Stay Bristol - Richard

This initiative now has a key worker employed and things are progressing but Richard is unsure as to what speed. They are working at The Station which is an excellent place to be to meet with young people.

Matt Douse(?) is overseeing the project but the name of the key worker is not known.

Safe Stay will need volunteer hosts very soon and so ideally need to be recruiting these people now. Please promote as you see fit.

They currently don't cater for 16 and 17 year olds to put a bit of pressure onto the government. However there is scope for the project to open up to this age group in the future.

St John Ambulance – Val

St John Ambulance were at Caring at Christmas 7pm-9pm each night. They helped 26 guests and had a total number of 38 treatments. These consisted of a variety of illnesses and conditions. Val noted that there were a large number of mental health issues this year.

The GP at the drop-in centre in Boots the Chemist would like to hold some specialist sessions for homeless and vulnerable people.

Christ Church Breakfast Run – Val

Nothing much to report other than it has been very busy.

Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland Lunch Run – Val

Christ Church did the month of December, Cotham are doing the month of January.

During December 85 lunches were handed out each time.

On one Saturday in the Bear Pit the group met a church from Portland Square handing out fish and chips. Some discussion took place around which church it was (did we reach a conclusion?)

In the future the Lunch Run won't happen during the dates that Caring at Christmas. This year the team only gave out about 20 lunches during the period that Caring at Christmas were open.

Matthew Tree Project – Kevin

Matthew Tree Project was the focus of an Inside Out programme in December. This raised the profile of the Project dramatically and there has been a massive increase in the number of referrals which is still continuing to increase. At the moment there is an average of 10 new referrals each week.

As a result of this the opening hours have been extended but only for existing clients. More volunteers are needed to cope with increase in opening hours.

Over the last couple of weeks Kevin has delivered food to some clients but this is not a service they are looking to promote or continue except in extreme circumstances.

Val

Matthew Tree Project are conducting some research into portion size and the nutritional content of their food parcels, including asking if people are losing weight whilst eating the food provided.

In 2012 the Project gave out 20 tonnes of food and this is expected to rise to 10 times more in 2013 due to a few factors including the reduction in benefits for many.

Bristol City Council are looking at having a collection bin inside their premises which shows that they understand the need and are willing to help.

Kevin has seen a marked increase in the number of non-English speaking clients. This makes communication very difficult and it is especially hard to work out their needs, requirements and circumstances.

St John Ambulance has a language booklet that Val will post to Kevin.

There is a Polish Information Day which is aimed at the Polish Community to show what organisations can offer them. Taking place at the Polish Church 20th January 11am-2pm. It is free to have a stall.

People Can have now gone into administration. St Mungos have taken over the services it was providing. The future use of the building on New Street is uncertain at the moment but it has a covenant which states that only work for the homeless can take place there. A number of organisations have expressed interest (CCM, Matthew Tree Project, St Mungos, community group)

Crisis Centre Ministries

Spring of Hope is open for three nights a week (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday) with the hope to open for more nights soon. To do this women volunteers are desperately needed as a few current and heavily committed volunteers are leaving. Please promote this need to those meet.

There are two levels of commitment to volunteer for Spring of Hope:

1. Welcome ladies from 10pm-Midnight.
2. Welcome ladies, stay overnight and help make breakfast in the morning. 10pm-8am.

CCM is still looking for a building for Spring of Hope. This is proving to be a more difficult task than first expected. We would like a residential facility with three bedrooms (that can have four women in each), a lounge, kitchen, couple of bathrooms and an office. This would ideally be within walking distance of the CCM building on Stapleton Road. We would also like the potential to convert the ground floor space into a charity shop or similar.

Alan has been away for a while and Jonnie is managing remarkably well in his absence.

Jonathan Swithinbank has now left CCM to work for a charity called Headway which is based on Frenchay Campus.

CCM are now advertising for a replacement. The closing date for applicants is 15th February and the post is advertised to pay between £28,000 and £30,000, depending on experience.

Notified Business

Sleep Out

Richard will update the Risk Assessment.

Richard

Richard will write letters to the fire brigade, police etc.	Richard
Joanna will produce posters and send some to Val.	Joanna
Richard will invite Counsellors and George Ferguson.	Richard
Paul has a meeting with George Ferguson in a couple of weeks so will mention it to him as well.	Paul
Richard will organise spare blankets but won't be present on the night.	Richard
St John Ambulance will be present with a vehicle throughout the night.	Val
Joanna will contact the media (radio, news, evening post etc).	Joanna
Val will contact Mike Hill.	Val
Joanna/Paul will amend the registration forms and sponsorship forms.	Joanna/Paul
Everyone should publicise the event as much as possible.	Everyone
Paul will ask group organisers for an estimate of the money raised.	Paul
<p>Feedback for the Christmas Period There were less fights, generally quieter and less police issues whilst Caring at Christmas were open.</p> <p>Julian Trust were not open the following night which took CCM by surprise. This has in fact been the policy for the last few years to help the service users differentiate between Caring at Christmas and the Julian Trust Nightshelter.</p> <p>Julian Trust were open on the Thursday to help which is not one of their normal nights to make it less of a stop-start week.</p> <p>Homelessness Survey we have had approx 150-200 responses and the results are currently being in-putted.</p> <p>We don't currently ask how long people have been homeless. It was agreed this should be added to the survey for this year. Paul to amend survey for 2013.</p>	Paul
AOB	
<p>Lent Lectures Val will send the dates, times, locations, titles of the lectures to Hazel to circulate.</p> <p>Next Meeting: 7:30pm 7th March at the Julian Trust Nightshelter</p>	Val