

BCAN Homeless Forum
May 9th 2013

<p><i>Present:</i> Paul, Hazel, Di, Richard, Debs, Jonnie, Karen, Kevin <i>Apologies:</i> Alan</p>	Action
<p><u>Information Share</u></p> <p><u>Bristol Night Stop</u></p> <p>Richard circulated the newly available literature.</p> <p>The project is still in the pilot phase and so the workers are not sure if they need more hosts or more young people etc.</p> <p>There are now three definite host families and another four families going through the application process.</p> <p>There was good publicity on the local radio recently.</p> <p>The project stays with the young person 'for as long as it takes' but the hosts are only only asked on a night by night basis and for a maximum of three nights.</p> <p>Matt Dowse is the project leader, Tyrell is the other worker.</p> <p>It's unsure when the project will end.</p> <p><u>Julian Trust</u></p> <p>The number of guests is increasing. It's hard to say how many people are being turned away as the queue is being more heavily managed now than it has been previously.</p> <p>The numbers of women are also increasing.</p> <p>There has been another sudden surge of Eastern Europeans over the last week or so.</p> <p>The shelter will be closed for the summer break from 26th August to 2nd September.</p> <p>Richard attended the TARA day and met Tom Roads who works for the council. He has invited Richard to the 'HAM' Homeless Agency Meeting on 4th of June at 9am to represent the voluntary organisations that work with homeless people.</p> <p>Jonnie expressed interest in sending someone from CCM to the HAM meeting.</p> <p>Richard has experienced a peak on Saturdays which is quite unusual as this is traditionally a very quiet night.</p> <p>Someone has donated 600 blankets which are arriving this week.</p> <p><u>Matthew Tree Project</u></p> <p>Kevin has also seen an increase in Eastern Europeans.</p> <p>They are seeing 60-70 people each week at St Judes alone.</p> <p>The type of client has changed - there are more people with jobs, one lady they are helping has a mortgage. There is an increasing number of people with NFA (no fixed address) written on their referrals which means the Matthew Tree Project cannot give them food as it all needs to be cooked.</p> <p><u>Christchurch Breakfast Run</u></p> <p>Increasing numbers, including an increase of Eastern Europeans, consistent with the other organisations. The breakfast run regularly serves 45 people.</p> <p>Debs has been given 200 really warm coats ready for the winter. Richard offered</p>	

storage space at the Julian Trust.

Jonnie would like some coats for CCM.

Wild Goose Drop In

Some of the staff from CCM did a night-count a couple of weeks ago. They came across 19 people actually on the street. Jonnie learnt that lots of people walk all night and sleep during the day for safety reasons.

The Julian Trust Nightshelter was full and the CCM staff took two ladies down to Spring of Hope to stay the night.

Alan would like to redo the count on a dry night as he suspects the wet weather to have had an impact on the numbers of people encountered.

There might be a Men's Nightshelter opening in October with the capacity of eight. It will be run separately to the CCM building.

The police have asked The Wild Goose to put a lifetime ban on one user. No more information could be shared at present. In this circumstance there isn't any need to share the information but if something similar happened again Jonnie suggests that we tell the police of the other organisations that need that information.

The sharing of information was raised and how often that should happen, especially if people are banned. Paul asked that this be put on the agenda for next time.

There are more women, young people and Eastern Europeans frequenting the café.

CCM General

Paul had a meeting with Frank Troke from the Housing department in the council who is trying to ascertain how many beds are being filled in Hostels by people who should be moved on to other accommodation.

The environment in the hostels is often not safe, welcoming or helpful which means that people are sometimes unwilling to move into them and so use up beds in the nightshelter.

The tension between voluntary organisations and statutory organisations is wide spread from working hours, perceived reliability of volunteers and the sharing of confidential information. There are very different ways of working in all the various organisations.

Spring of Hope has been offered an allotment which Esther Lambert, new Wild Goose Assistant Manager, is co-ordinating. The aim of the allotment is to give opportunities to people to get out and achieve something which almost certainly will be beneficial to their health and well-being.

Notified Business

Survey Results

Paul circulated the initial statistical results from the 2012 survey and talked through the figures.

AOB

None

Next Meeting

7:30pm Thursday 11th July 2013 at the Julian Trust Nightshelter