

BCAN Homeless Forum

September 12th 2013

Present

Val Moore, Ed Read, Richard Drake, Jonnie Angel, Paul Hazelden, Debbie

Information Share

Julian Trust

Richard confirmed he is invited to the HAM meetings. St Mungos, Salvation Army, various hostels and Second Step attend. The HAM meeting is followed by a discussion of specific service users. As anticipated, there will be less money next year, but we don't know how much less yet. Please let Richard know if there is anything you would like to be taken to the meetings.

The Julian Trust beds are almost always full but there isn't much of a difference in the demand for meals. There are about 5/6 women coming each night, many of whom are new.

There is a fundraising event planned this Saturday organised by 'Kev the Poet'. This is a joint event between Julian Trust and Love Africa from midday-9pm on Saturday 14th September.

Before the Summer break, someone was dumped at the Julian Trust by the police one Monday evening: they were unable to walk, with cerebral palsy. EDT did not initially respond to phone calls; later they claimed he had a crash pad at the Salvation Army, but the Salvation Army disagreed. Jenny Riley has supported JT in complaining about this.

Frank Troke (the 'Single Point of Access Manager' in Housing Solutions) has written a letter of reply about the incident. Please contact Richard if you would like further details of this letter. Richard has a meeting with Frank and a couple of other people on 30th September to talk about it further. We are told that people from outside the area are not automatically denied help, and will be given help if they are needy. Richard hopes to have a better understanding at this meeting of the help which should be available from the Council and how to access it, and plans to circulate the results of the meeting if there is anything worth communicating.

Breakfast Run

None to note – a ongoing need more volunteers.

Debs has bought some coats for people to take away for their projects.

St John Ambulance

Will be in attendance at the Sleep Out as usual.

Christ Church

Val will be collecting items for Caring at Christmas soon. Ed asked for boxers and toiletries.

Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland

The lunch run is feeding more people than a few years ago. This takes place every Saturday, starting in Clifton and ending in the Bearpit with various stops on the way.

The lunch run will stop while Caring at Christmas is open.

Caring at Christmas

Have posted the applications forms for Christmas 2013. Online application forms are also available for the first time this year. So far the people who have applied online are all brand new volunteers.

The survival handbooks are now available. Please take them. The hope is to produce the survival handbook twice a year. They have printed 6,000 copies, twice as many as last time, in the hope that they will not run out. The current print run cost £3,800, so each handbook costs around 63p.

This year the centre will be open from 10am Monday 23rd December – 10am 1st January 2014. Julian Trust will not be open on 1st January but may be open on Thursday 2nd. Richard will confirm. The Wild Goose may not open on the 23rd of December. CCM will confirm.

A number of churches that were promised talks haven't received them due to the change in management. If anyone hears of someone who didn't get a talk, please ask them to get in touch.

There is a Spanish themed fundraising event on the 19th of October 19:30 till late. Please come and spread the word.

There will be a store person to sort out donations recruited in the next couple of weeks. This could be filled by some who is hosted at Nightstop.

CCM

Alan has been seconded for 2½ days a week to Changing Lives – the charity shops in Clevedon and Nailsea which raise money for Alabaré and CCM. Alan plans to work half a day with CCM and half a day with Changing Lives until the end of February.

The drinking issues have essentially been resolved.

The numbers of clients has increased after a Summer semi-lull. New people are being referred to the Wild Goose but not necessarily for the correct services and at the wrong times (they turn up with Foodbank vouchers, or expect to get a hot meal at 4 pm, for example). Richard will raise this at the meeting with Frank Troke. We need to identify who is making these wrong referrals, so we can avoid letting people down.

The allotment is running well and producing food. There is potential this will expand to a second allotment.

Spring of Hope celebrated their 100th different visitor recently. The shelter will also open on a Monday night from the end of September. There are plans to open a 5th night on a Tuesday by the end of the year.

The planning permission for the West Street building has been granted. The lease will be signed on Wednesday 18th September, and we hope to move to the new building at the beginning of January.

Stapleton Road Chapel have offered storage rooms downstairs for storing food to free up office space upstairs.

Paul ran a seminar on the role of the church in homelessness at the recent event at Colston Hall. He circulated the training notes. Paul will put it on the website in the next couple of days.

Paul also circulated the notes from the previous meeting with Barbara Janke.

The volunteer training on Helping Vulnerable People has started again; the next session is on Saturday.

Paul plans to stand down from the Voscur Board at the next AGM.

Julian Trust

There are now 12 hosts for Nightstop. Everyone referred to Nightstop has been successfully moved on.

Nightstop only take referrals Monday to Thursday but individuals who have been set up can be hosted at the weekend if they are well known.

Further funding should be announced in November.

Items for Discussion

Sleep Out – 28th February 2014

Paul has a meeting with a Canon on Tuesday 17th September to talk about holding the Sleep Out at the Cathedral.

Homelessness Survey

The Breakfast Run has been credited with the results they gathered.

Paul circulated a copy of the questions for the next Homelessness Survey and the guidance notes. Some amendments are still to be made.

Val suggested Broadmead Medical Practice as somewhere to run the survey.

Section F – needs to mention Spring of Hope Ladies Nightshelter.

Source of income – Paul/Richard to ask Ahmed to check these categories are correct.

Lunch Run needs listing.

Any other corrections to Paul please.

Starting time

We have been asked to try meeting at 18:00 instead of 19:30. Other possibilities were discussed, but in the end it was agreed that we will start the next meeting at 18:00 as a trial. The meeting will still run for a maximum of 2 hours, so we will aim to be finished by 20:00.

Next Meeting

18:00 Thursday 14th November 2013 at the Julian Trust Nightshelter.