

## BCAN Homeless Forum – March 11<sup>th</sup> 2014

### Present

Richard Drake, Debs Perkins, Paul Hazelden, Val Moore, Helen Riddell, Kevin Vicker, James McCabe

### Apologies

Val Thompson, Ed Reed

### Matters Arising

Frank Troake – no further correspondence.

Hazel and Helen to follow up WRAP training dates with Bev.

### Items for Discussion

#### Sleep Out

Lots of people arrived before 9pm.

Please forward any photos you have to Paul.

The feedback is that it was a great success with more participants, and the media exposure was good. With more planning the media coverage could be excellent.

There were three articles in Evening Post, three on 247 Bristol website and coverage on Jack FM, BBC Points West, Ujima, ITV and Heart FM.

Peter Wood in the Council was the link with the press.

Richard asked if we wanted more people involved next year who are from outside our BCAN family. This might dilute the author of the event but it potentially widens the publicity and raises more awareness. Everyone thought this would be acceptable.

Lots of different groups were meeting each other and interacting during the event.

Helen found it a very educational experience explaining to people in the run-up to the event why she was doing it.

Paul thanked everyone who contributed to the sleep out's success.

The registration process needs to be done by someone else next year so Paul is free to be one of the organisers.

#### Sleep Out 2015

A provisional date was agreed for: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

A change of location to the Cathedral is unlikely and undesirable by participants.

The registration fee will remain the same.

#### Survival Handbook

There are very low on stocks. Caring in Bristol is hopeful for funding to get a larger amount printed in July.

This will be a new revised version, not a reprint of the current one.

### Information Share

#### Nightstop

There are now 29 active host families.

Nightstop are now piloting their own deposit fund scheme to help people that don't fit the Councils criteria.

They are also helping young people prepare for tenancy like helping them prepare meals etc. Paul suggested they speak to Stuart on the LITE Course because there are likely to be overlaps.

(more info on Richard's piece of paper that I failed to pick up..! Richard - could you circulate this via email?)

#### Caring in Bristol

Formerly Caring at Christmas - Caring in Bristol now run Bristol Nightstop and Caring in Bristol.

#### Julian Trust

The shelter is as busy as ever.

The BS2 lofts were broken into and the residents found people using drugs in the bin store. These weren't nightshelter users.

There was a recent meeting between interested parties and the conversation is ongoing.

There is a lack of toilet facilities for homeless people to use. Richard has encouraged BS2 Lofts to put pressure on the Council to not close the ear-marked facilities in and near the centre.

Sister Jean has been coming to the queuing people at the night shelter at awkward times and has been quite unhelpful and hard to speak to. Giving out food creates lots of rubbish and has disrupted the queuing system.

She is possibly from the 7<sup>th</sup> day Adventist church.

This is the same lady Jonnie has had unsavoury dealings with at Pret a Manger.

Paul and Richard will arrange to meet up with her and make some positive suggestions to help her be less of a nuisance.

Richard promoted End Hunger Fast. Please search google for more information.

#### Churches together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland

The Bear Pit is being redeveloped and the lunch run team aren't sure how things will work. They are likely to have to re-locate the lunch run for a short time.

Val promoted some lectures commemorating the start of World War 1 taking place over the coming

weeks.

More details at [www.bristolnetworks.org.uk](http://www.bristolnetworks.org.uk)

Richard suggested doing a Lent Lecture on homelessness and related issues next year.

### CCM

Spring of Hope is still not in its building. We hope to be in by the end of the month.

The new Changing Lives charity shop on Crow Lane in Henbury opened on Wednesday. The full-time manager doesn't start until the middle of next week.

There is some building work taking place soon to shift storage space around and free up office space.

Paul to chase Graham for an update on the soup run.

### Breakfast Run

There has been a very recent surge in numbers.

### Matthew Tree Project

The numbers of clients are staying constant at the moment.

There are six centres now open across Bristol and South Gloucester, two of which are very new.

Referrals from health visitors are increasing. The job centre is not a referring agency as they don't get to know their clients.

### Elim Church and Aspire

Please add to the BHF mailing list: [jamesmccabe73@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jamesmccabe73@hotmail.co.uk)

James ran away from home at 14 and slept on a golf course for a month whilst there was snow on the ground. He has a vision to see all the homeless people under one roof at the Julian Trust by getting enough volunteers. Richard will arrange a meeting with James to discuss this.

At the Elim drop-in, they provide food, drink, clothing and bedding on a Wednesday evening.

James also manages the landscaping division of Aspire.

### Spring of Hope

#### *After the meeting:*

We are now able to move on Spring of Hope Women's Night Shelter service users more swiftly into temporary or permanent accommodation since our working relationship with the outreach team from Compass Centre (St Mungos) has grown. SoH now on a weekly basis has an outreach workers coming into the Shelter to talk to the women.

What is concerning is that SoH is still receiving, on a weekly basis, women fleeing domestic violence. Only on Monday night (10/03/14) we had four women who were fleeing domestic violence. Two returned to their partners - the other two are now in a safe house.

Another of our service users was violently abused last month. Her abuser will be going to Bristol Crown Court later this month.

We're working more closely with Edon House who have been helping and supporting me with one of our service users - who have a court hearing later this month at Bristol Magistrates Court.

Since we last met up between one and two of one25 service users have been using our services regularly as well as staying through the night and having breakfast with the other women in the morning.

Over the past month Women's Prisons around the country have been getting in touch to find out when the Shelter is open, so that they can sign post the women when they are released from prison.

The new building is progressing well - Paul will you give update on SoH new premises.

### Salvation Army

*After the meeting - from Ian Mountford:*

Apologies I haven't been able to make it for quite a while, and I am unable to be there tonight due to university study, however just a quick note to say that following receiving planning permission last year the 'Candle' Community Centre has now closed, and is due for demolition between April and June of this year, Construction of the new integrated community church and family centre will start in July, and we hope to open in May 2015.

This will be both the home of 'Bristol Citadel Community Church' and 'The Salvation Army Family Support Service' with great new facilities and new programmes including a new and large community café, an employment plus centre, food bank, children and youth facilities, child contact centre and a TLG school for excluded children.

The total cost is £1.8m is an answer to long-standing prayers and we are well on the way with the funding.

During construction, although we are remaining on site, our services from the centre will be significantly limited due to the remaining space available to us, however we anticipate still running a reduced service during this time, unfortunately this will mean our food distribution will also be suspended until next year due to restricted storage.

In addition, continuing our transition to a family centre, we will no longer be in position to provide any direct homeless services from this site, these services will be continue to be available from Easton, Bedminster and Logos House.

We are holding a service of thanksgiving for the Candle Community Centre and its 130 years of service to the community on Tuesday 24th April at 6.00pm and this will be a final opportunity for folk to view the building, share with us in worship and thanksgiving and enjoy some great food!

All are welcome.

*Next Meeting*

18:00 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at the Julian Trust Nightshelter.