

# **BCAN Homeless Forum**

## **Julian Trust**

### **8 May 2014**

## **Open**

### *People*

Present at the meeting were Kevin Vicker (Bristol City Mission Society; Matthew Tree Project), Lindsey Jones (Caring in Bristol; Bristol Methodist Centre), Steve Jones (Bristol Soup Run Trust), Richard Drake (Julian Trust), Katharine Wall (Big Issue Foundation), Val Moore (St John Ambulance Avon Homeless Scheme; Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland; Christ Church, Clifton) Bev Douglas (Avon & Somerset Police), Val Thompson (Spring of Hope, Crisis Centre Ministries) and Paul Hazelden (Crisis Centre Ministries).

Apologies had been received from Ed Reed (Caring in Bristol) and Elaine Brightwell (Bristol Methodist Centre).

### *Previous Meeting*

We are appreciative of Hazel's prompt production of the meeting minutes, but it was noted that some of the items discussed need a fair degree of sensitivity in how they are reported. It would be better to take a little longer and check that the content and level of detail is appropriate for public circulation.

No specific changes to the previous minutes were noted, beyond correcting Frank Troke's name, and the fact that Caring in Bristol runs both the Bristol Nightstop and Caring at Christmas.

### *Outstanding Business*

Can we encourage the Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland to do a Lent Lecture next year on homelessness and related issues? Who do we talk to about this?

### *Matters Arising*

Frank Troke and Richard Nochar have left the council, as part of the general cutbacks. Hywel Caddy now seems to be our main link.

Paul tried to contact Sister Jean, but with no success. He left a message on her answering machine, but she has not responded.

# Information Share

## *Homeless Forum*

Hazel Rogers is no longer working for CCM on Thursdays, so will not be able to take the minutes for this meeting. A new minute taker would be very much appreciated. **ACTION: Everyone** ask around to see if they can find someone who would be able and willing to come and take the minutes every two months.

We have been meeting from 6 to 8 pm for a while now, and it is time to review the new arrangement. While the earlier start can create some difficulties due to the traffic, it is either manageable or preferable for everyone who has expressed an opinion. We agreed to fix the default meeting start time at 6 pm from now on. As always, if this stops working for anyone, they are welcome to raise the subject and suggest an alternative.

## *Matthew Tree Project*

They now have a full time employee, Collette Brown, who is responsible for collecting food. This is a three year post, which she started last Monday. Overall numbers are much the same.

## *Bristol Methodist Centre*

Lindsey is a volunteer and on the review panel looking at the future of the BMC, who are investigating a possible move to Lawrence Hill next year. They plan to be more proactive in speaking about their work to other people and groups, and also in partnership working.

The anticipated new premises are about twice the size of the existing buildings, which raises the possibility of sharing some of the space with other agencies. We are asked to circulate this news and encourage people to get in contact with Lindsey if they are interested in finding out more.

The charity shop will probably expand a little: the current site is likely to continue and a smaller shop open up in the new premises for the clients to use. Opening times have not been worked out yet.

## *Caring in Bristol*

They are trying to be a bit more organised and start preparations for this coming Christmas earlier in the year. A new management group has been formed. They would like to improve liaison with the Julian Trust on areas like behaviour in the courtyard.

Some thought was given to the problem of needing to turn away people who offer to volunteer at the last minute. Maybe in addition to the usual Caring at Christmas 'Thank-You' party, we can jointly organise an event after Christmas and showcase all the things which go on during the year. **ACTION: Everyone** think about this and come prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

## *Bristol Nightstop*

This is primarily a scheme to provide for emergency accommodation for 18-25 year olds. It has been a busy period, and the key worker is on maternity leave. They had 18 referrals and provided 71 person-nights in March. Over the month, the local authority helped to find somewhere for 2 people, friends took in 2, Bristol Nightstop found places for 14 and they lost track of 1 person.

The Deposit Bond scheme is up and running. Richard nominated this as a recipient of the mayor's homelessness fund.

## *Bristol Soup Run Trust*

Steve told the meeting that Graham Wheeler stepped down as chair of the Bristol Soup Run Trust three months ago due to ill health. There was a small presentation at the time, but Graham is unlikely to be well enough to cope with a big public event. Steve was asked to pass on our best wishes to Graham, and our grateful thanks for all his years of service to the city, through the Bristol Soup Run Trust and numerous other groups. We will miss his experience, and we will miss his active involvement in the forum.

They have been busy in recent months. Steve has been noticing more people who seem to be recently made homeless and have nothing – they need a blanket, underwear, everything. Fewer places are open now at the weekends. On Saturday nights, 70 is the minimum but they have had up to 150 (this happened in February). The split is around 75% male and 25% female.

They did have significant numbers of Polish people, but they are comparatively rare now. Some people who use the soup run do have accommodation. Around two thirds of the clients have clear mental health issues; presumably these are often drug or alcohol related. The clients are getting more needy, and some are travelling a long way. One Chinese family (two parents and three children) came consistently for a couple of months; they frequently came in to the Wild Goose as well.

They are in the process of getting new art work drawn up. This includes getting magnetic stickers for the cars, which may help gain donations and new volunteers.

The council are talking about redeveloping the Redcliffe Wharf site, so BSRT may lose that location. It is hard to find another location which provides convenient parking.

Steve has been nominated as the new Chair but not officially appointed yet; this will probably happen at the next board meeting, so they are in a bit of a transitional period.

There are two missing slots at present: the third Thursday and third Sunday of each month. **Action:** if anyone wishes to help to fill the slots, please call Steve on 07976 321 995 or email him on [finance@templars4progress.org](mailto:finance@templars4progress.org).

## *Julian Trust*

**People with high support needs.** In the latest HAM ('Homelessness Agencies

Meeting') minutes, the EDT ('Emergency Duty Team') noted that they are committed to requiring a risk assessment before every crashpad referrals: no risk assessment, no referral. The issue for the JT is that when some unsuitable person turns up to the JT, the only number they have been given to call is the EDT.

We have been trying to determine and understand the guidelines for referring people to the EDT, and what they are able to do. It seems they can do very little, and have very few resources. On one occasion, the EDT found someone a place for the night because they were already known and not a significant risk, but that was very much the exception. The reality is that we are the last resort: if we can't manage to accommodate someone because they are likely to put others at risk, all we can do is turn them away.

**News.** The JT took part in Bristol Open Door for two years, but were not allowed to do so last year: the organisers maintain there is not enough historic interest in the building.

The JT now owns Julian House. This should not make any difference to any of the users or services here.

Just in the last week, the JT have had some empty beds, although the demand for meals has not changed.

Richard confirmed that the JT do not open during the St Pauls Carnival.

## *Big Issue*

Katharine works for the Big Issue Foundation. The foundation tries to help the vendors move forward in their lives. They work with the Compass Centre. There are about 60 active sellers in Bristol each month. They have a solid database recording activity and the steps the vendors take to move on. The best vendor sells around 400 magazines a week; he works very long hours. Most vendors sell around 40 a week.

They do outreach each week, partly to check the vendors are selling from the correct pitch. A question was raised about vendors collecting for a charity at the same time as they sell: we think it is probably against the rules, but Katharine will check this detail.

Some vendors have been involved with Positive Causes, but activity there seems to have quietened down recently.

## *Christ Church; Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham & Redland*

There is a new person at Christ Church heading up the soup run.

Breakfast Run numbers are steady or slightly higher, but the people doing the Breakfast Run are being asked for clothes and blankets more often than before.

Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham & Redland is still very busy.

## *Spring of Hope*

There was a break-in at Carpenter House on Friday 25 April, and the SoH have not been able to open since then because the office doors have not been made secure yet. [Post-meeting note: the offices are now secure again.] St Mungos have been helpful accommodating many of their clients during this period.

It has been a very busy time despite the overnight service being closed: work with individual women continues, as does the preparation for moving into the new building (71 West Street, Old Market) which is very close – possibly the first overnight session in the new building will be next week.

When the SoH moves to the new building, it will continue to operate on the same nights as at present: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The SoH plans to open on Tuesday nights in the near future.

Val will be distributing flyers advertising the location of the new building.

## *Wild Goose*

The big news is that Alan Goddard has moved on. He was juggling his role as the Manager of the Wild Goose with another role as the Operations Manager for Changing Lives; both jobs were very pressurised, and despite enjoying both, he could not continue to do them both indefinitely. To a number of peoples' surprise, he chose to take on the job with Changing Lives. Jonnie Angel, Alan's Deputy in the Wild Goose, has stepped up to take on the Project Manager role. CCM will be recruiting for a new person in the Wild Goose to replace Jonnie in the near future.

A team from The Noise, including Steve, was involved in painting the Wild Goose kitchen last weekend; this was very much appreciated. They managed about half of it. The remainder of the painting is planned for the next Bank Holiday weekend; Steve is open to volunteering to take part again.

## *Other CCM*

Paul will try to circulate an update on progress with the planned new men's night shelter at Kensington.

It was noted that Bristol NW Foodbank are planning to open a new outlet at Hope Chapel in the near future.

## **Notified Business**

### *Survival Handbook*

It was confirmed that Ed is in charge of the new Survival Handbook edition. This is on track for publication in July. CiB are planning a print run of 5,000 copies, to last 6 months, then print another 5,000 of the next edition. Safer Bristol are now financing it, so there will be some change to the content but it will stay the same size.

Updated information should be sent through to Caring in Bristol as soon as possible.

## *Sleep Out*

We are still waiting for the media week review which Hywel Caddy is arranging.

For next year, we need to start planning how to get the statutory agencies included.

## *Ongoing*

**Public toilets.** The issue of the closure of public toilets has not gone away, but (possibly indicating minor success or at least a delay in the process) they are no longer listing the toilets due for closure on the web site.

The Equality Impact Report can be found by searching for 'R-PL-019 Bristol Equality Impact' or from the following link:

[http://www.bristol.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/council\\_and\\_democracy/R-PL-019%20Review%20Public%20Toilets%20FINAL%20Feb%202014.pdf](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/council_and_democracy/R-PL-019%20Review%20Public%20Toilets%20FINAL%20Feb%202014.pdf)

The issues considered do not include homeless people: we need to keep making that point, and make our voice heard on this. People living in BS2 Lofts are complaining about the courtyard being used as a toilet, but this is difficult to avoid if there are no public toilets available for homeless people.

## *Close*

### *Future Meetings*

The next two meetings are planned for Thursday 10 July and Thursday 11 September 2014, both starting at 6 pm and finishing by 8.

### *Apologies*

Richard sends his apologies for 10 July: his wedding anniversary.

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