

**BCAN Homeless Forum**  
Meeting Notes  
14 May 2015  
Caring in Bristol, Little Bishop Street

## Open

### Present

Paul Hazelden (BCAN), Lindsey Jones (Caring in Bristol, Strangers' Friend Society), Val Moore (St John Ambulance, Churches Together CCR, Christ Church Clifton), Di Noon (Christ Church Breakfast Run), Val Thompson (Spring of Hope, Crisis Centre Ministries), Jonathan Lee (Crisis Centre Ministries).

Apologies were received from Richard Drake (Julian Trust), Steve Jones (Bristol Soup Run Trust), Jonnie Angel (Wild Goose Drop-In, Crisis Centre Ministries).

## Previous Meeting

### Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record, subject to an amendment to state that the Lent Lectures are run by CTiCCR.

### Matters Arising

The date of the "Your kindness can kill" pavement stencil campaign is not yet known.

Paul will remind Richard to circulate details of organisations for ex-servicemen.

The relocation of free food hand outs from the Bearpit to St James Park has gone smoothly and is proving popular with the guests. St James Priory is providing parking and storage space.

There is no update yet on the feasibility study by CCM into a new weekend project in the city centre, but they would still like to hear about any potential properties near the city centre which you may know of.

The Rucksack Project can be contacted via their Facebook page; contact Natalie Conway.

There is no update yet on the proposed changes in legislation for groups of rough sleepers mentioned by the police at the last meeting.

Di and Val M reprised their notes from a recent meeting of the QNI Homeless Unit seminar on health equality. Contact Val for details. The unit meets four times a year and Val will notify the BCAN members of future dates. We may be invited to contribute to research into forced labour and homeless people.

Paul alerted forum members to the recent Supreme Court ruling relaxing the criteria homeless people are required to meet before they are entitled to local authority assistance. In theory many more people will qualify for help, though it is unclear where local authorities will find the money to do this. The forum will await developments with interest.

- [Additional note: you can find a helpful summary of the legal issues covered by this ruling at <http://nearlylegal.co.uk/blog/2015/05/vulnerability-a-fresh-start/>]

## Information Share

Up to date news from Bristol Nightstop, Caring in Bristol, the Strangers' Friend Society, the Bristol Soup Run Trust, Christ Church breakfast run, the Bearpit Redevelopment Group, the BCAN Homeless Forum and the proposed Bristol Christians in Politics and Social Action group, and NEON Bristol can be found here:

[http://www.bcan.org.uk/bhf/meet/BHF\\_Meeting\\_150514\\_News.htm](http://www.bcan.org.uk/bhf/meet/BHF_Meeting_150514_News.htm)

Details can also be found about the forthcoming investigation by BCC into the supply and use of legal highs in the city.

The Bristol Soup Run Trust made an urgent appeal for premises to prepare food for their Friday night shifts which will shortly cease to operate from Pip 'n' Jay church.

The forum received an invitation to the public information day on 1<sup>st</sup> June about the relocation of the Bristol Methodist Centre to Lawrence Hill Methodist Church in October 2015.

The Spring of Hope is open 5 nights a week excluding Friday and Saturday and is full most nights. It is noting an increase in complex cases, including women who have been reported missing and young women whose risk profile is not suitable for referral to Bristol Nightstop.

Paul appealed for interested parties to join the steering group for the proposed Bristol Christians in Politics and Social Action group, which is being set up by Churches Together in Greater Bristol and is likely to replace BCAN as the host of the Homeless Forum.

## Notified Business

BHF starting time

The Forum will retain the later start time of 6.30pm.

## Sleep-Out

The date of the next sleep-out is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Invitations will be sent to key local individuals. RD will report on the feedback from BCC at the next meeting.

## Information request

The forum has been asked what venues are available for homeless people during the day, particularly where they can store their belongings during the day. The Survival Handbook details all the venues we are currently aware of. No-one knows of any storage or locker facilities; organisations are generally reluctant to provide this due to the practical issues around the type of materials stored, lost keys, security and potential legal liability.

## Beyond Food

This charity provides homeless people with catering skills and experience through their "Good Skills" workshop, and is hoping to set up an outlet in Bristol. Full details are available from [www.beyondfood.org.uk](http://www.beyondfood.org.uk) or talk to Paul.

## Faith Action Audit

The survey is complete and 41 organisations responded. Please contact Paul with your stories and case studies. The national report and results will be published on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, with the Bristol report to follow on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015. It will be launched with an event at St Monica's Trust where information stands will be available for forum members - please talk to Paul if you are interested.

## Ongoing issues

The reduction in toilet facilities for homeless people is still a cause for concern; as well as the imminent closure of public facilities people are also reporting being turned away from shops.

The Julian Trust will be closed from 17<sup>th</sup> August for a period of two to four weeks due to essential maintenance work.

## Involving the workers

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

## Information sharing and confidentiality

This item was deferred to the next meeting where it will be a priority agenda item.

Close

Future meetings

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 6.30 pm.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 6.30 pm.

LJ 08.06.15