

BRISTOL HOMELESS FORUM 2018 AGM

The 2018 AGM of Bristol Homeless Forum took place at 7:00 pm on Thursday 5th July at the Julian Trust Night Shelter in St Pauls.

The meeting was Quorate at 18% of members (10% required) and the [attendance records](#) are attached.

Richard Drake, the current chair, read [his report](#) for the year which was also distributed, also attached.

Elections of the Core Management team were introduced

The team to date has been Richard Drake, Paul Hazelden, Lindsey Jones and more recently John Isserlis. Lindsey Jones is not standing for re-election but Richard, Paul & John are and we have also had interest from Ed Reed (Caring in Bristol).

No-one else present indicated an interest to join the core team at this stage, but all were invited to show interest later and be co-opted if appropriate.

The motion to elect all four standing for election en bloc was proposed by Penny Walster (Shelter) and seconded by Sophie Whitaker (One25) and carried unanimously by show of hands.

The formal business of the meeting being completed the meeting moved on to a series of brief talks from those who were willing which are summarised below

Talks

JULIAN TRUST (Richard Drake)

Richard pre-announced the possibility of an extended closure of the shelter during August, September and possibly October pending a decision by the trustees to proceed with long awaited kitchen and guest shower refurbishments and safety improvements. Options to open a partial service to minimise impact would be reviewed.

CARING IN BRISTOL (Ed Reed)

Ed highlighted the different projects that Caring in Bristol are and are planning to be involved in (see below) and, in particular, drew attention to the Bristol Homeless Connect website which is being extended to include opportunity for organisations to list the support they need.

Current Activities:

365 Shelter – Low Supports Need shelter with guests referred via St Mungo's Outreach. Still recruiting volunteers
Bristol Nightstop – Hosting service for homeless young people aged (18-25), self referrals accepted
Room 45 – Longer term hosting (up to 45 nights) for young people aged 16 – 18
Caring at Christmas – Christmas shelter running between the 24th December and 1st January
Get to Know – Education programme visiting schools, charities and corporations
Growing for Bristol – Gardening project in partnership with Salvation Army's Logos House
Survival Handbook – Directory of services available for rough sleepers. Printed and distributed in July.

New Developments

Caring at Breakfast – Breakfast service for 365 shelter guests
The Common – The Common is an open access, drop-in space for young people (aged 16-25) in Bristol facing multiple disadvantages. The Common will offer young people targeted key-working, an opportunity to become part of a supportive community, and crucially to receive the right help for their individual needs.
Bristol Homeless Connect – Online resource detailing services for homeless people. Phase 2 will enable it to be used by volunteers and charities to recruit, appeal and donate.
St Anne's House – new 30 bed 24-hr accessible shelter from September/October, jointly between St Mungo's and Caring in Bristol, Crisis Centre Ministries and Julian Trust

FEED THE HOMELESS (Naseem Taludkar)

(report awaited)

CHAS (Charlotte Eddisford)

CHAS Bristol have two partnership projects; Aashyana, offers advice on housing, benefits and debt to any member of the South Asian community. This is a partnership between Citizens Advice, St Paul's Advice and CHAs and you can refer through the [website-www.aashyana-advice.org.uk](http://www.aashyana-advice.org.uk) . We have also recently received funding for a project tackling cold homes in communities: we will be offering a advice on disrepair and provide thermal imaging surveys to support this. We will launch this project in the autumn, when the summer heat subsides!

CRISIS CENTRE MINISTRIES (Jonnie Angel)

Current activities

Crisis Centre Ministries (CCM) core foundation is to enable the Church to serve the most marginalised and vulnerable within our Community. We are local to Bristol and were established over thirty years ago by our founder who was asked by a homeless person, 'what is the church doing for someone like me?' CCM is made up of four projects; Wild Goose Drop-in Centre, Spring of Hope, East Bristol Foodbank and LIFE Recovery. Jonathan Lee our CEO is involved with the 'rough sleeping partnership,' City Office, Co-ordination of 'Churches Winter Night Shelter,' Shelter Steering Group. We are also represented on @recovery Festival Steering Group.'

New developments

We are looking at undertaking a major refurbishment towards the end of 2018/beginning of 2019. Having recently finalised our 'Development Plan' we are looking to develop; our projects including cross-working, our working with volunteers, engagement with City Wide initiatives and 'move on' accommodation.

Where do we see opportunities to do more?

- building relationship over service offering,
- co-production – engaging more with those with lived experience,
- joined up strategy over short termism
- learning from others both locally and nationally including broader communication.

CRISIS (Richard Drake for Joe Smith)

Crisis have done a lot of work on the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) and strongly recommend everyone have a look at the plan (it is a hefty 500 pages!) which can be accessed via our interactive website or downloaded in full. It provides an invaluable manifesto/reference point of latest thinking and uk/global research for everyone in the sector.

Crisis have produced a number of HRA materials for the coaches in our skylight centres in England who are advocating for or working with clients (what we call members) who are seeking help from their local authority. These include: 1-page factsheets for clients on what the changes in law mean, letter templates to outline the facts of a client's case with the necessary legal prompts to make sure LAs are meeting their duties; and a checklist for frontline staff in the 3rd sector on the common things to look out for when supporting clients with their local authority. Joe would be happy to share these materials and can also deliver some HRA training if forum members think that would be useful.

Because Joe lives in Bristol, he has had a number of conversations with the City Council about how they are implementing the HRA and has committed to meet regularly and help them where he can

A second part to the project is lead by Crisis' research & evaluation team. They are researching the impact of the HRA in 6 localities over the next couple of years and one of these is Bristol. The first round of fieldwork for this should be starting very shortly and the intention is to survey 100 service users in each locality now, after year 1 and after year 2 meaning 1,800 participants in total. This will also include in-depth interviews with some service users and with local authority staff. An interim report will be published after year 1 and a final report after year 2

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In terms of recruiting participants for the research, although our main referrals will be from the City Council, we are keen to access local services as well to avoid any bias in the results. If members don't mind, it would be great if I could put them in touch with our research team to contact them about interviewing some of their service users in relation to post 3rd April experiences at the city council.

ST MUNGOS (David Ingerslev)

Current activities

- Rough sleeping outreach – for engagement and housing options assessment/advice in the context of the highly technical and legal housing system we have
- Compass Centre – for engagement and assessment, plus night shelter
- Evening assessment workers – based in other services
- Temporary housing in empty buildings – for people with low levels of need
- Strategic work to try and get everyone doing things that are coordinated, give consistent messages and help people understand their options

New developments

- Night assessment centre at Compass Centre offering breakfast and later departures from 16 July
- New rough sleeping housing options assessment post in Prison (HMP Bristol) and Council Citizen Service Point (Temple St)
- St Anne's House – new 30 bed 24-hr accessible shelter from September/October, jointly between St Mungo's and Caring in Bristol, Crisis Centre Ministries and Julian Trust
- Always looking for more empty buildings – www.emptybuildingsbristol.com

Gaps in current services

- Early evenings (5-8pm) – very few services people can access
- Increase in proportion of women sleeping rough – probably due to general increase in risk of sleeping rough
- Move-on housing / realistically affordable housing in general
- Local Housing Allowance rates nowhere near lower quartile rents (£100/month gap)

Chairs Report

Bristol Homeless Forum has been formally established in its current format since September 2016 and developed from the Bristol Christian Action Network (BCAN) Homeless Forum.

BCAN had been running for many years and some members had organised the annual Sleepout and more recently worked with a wider group of people and the council on Homelessness Awareness Week.

Under our 'rebranding' as Bristol Homeless Forum (BHF) we were able to open up our membership to *"any individual or organisation working with homeless people and homelessness issues in Bristol"*

BHF has been able to offer an independent platform for a broad range of individuals and organisations where we can start to understand each other better and support each other in providing the broad range of support and response needed by homeless people in Bristol.

We have run 4 networking meetings since October 2016 where we have included discussion of themes such as 'Single Service Offer', 'New initiatives', 'Working Together' and 'Tensions' as well as the opportunity to have some very practical discussions around developing the Bristol Homeless Connect website and approaches to Homeless Awareness Week.

Although the weather last winter significantly raised the public profile of homelessness issues in the City it meant that the Sleepout had to be cancelled. That, and other factors, have made us rethink the timing of such events and at our last network meeting there was a broad consensus in favour of moving to

Homelessness Action Week in late Spring 2019

Sleepout event in October 2019

And that's the direction we're heading for next year.

We hope to continue running network events, to more pro-actively enable an online forum through the website (offers of skilled help welcome) and to promote 'Homeless Sunday' on October 7th this year amongst our church support base.

The core management team welcomes ideas, practical help and enthusiastic new members.

We don't aim to be a funds driven organisation and don't have any plans to charge for membership but we do have £310.09 funds generated in the last year as a result of donations and Sleepout fees. Thanks go to Paul Hazelden who has acted as our treasurer and handles those funds within the BCAN accounts.

Attendance Records

Membership at date of AGM : 94 individuals representing 50 organisations

Attendance at AGM : 17 members & 3 guests representing 14 organisations

AGM Attendance - Confirmed			
First Name	Family Name	Organisation	Present (please sign)
Jonnie	Angel	Crisis Centre Ministries	Yes
Tim	Bates	Breakfast Run	Yes
Hywel	Caddy	BCC	Yes
Sommer	Casey	St Mungos	Yes
Julie	Dempster	BOSH	Yes
Richard	Drake	Julian Trust	Yes
Charlotte	Eddisford	CHAS	Yes
Paul	Hazelden	Christian Action Bristol	Yes
David	Ingerslev	St Mungos	Yes
John	Isserlis		Yes
Val	Moore	Christ Church Breakfast Run	Yes
Ed	Reed	Caring in Bristol	Yes
Jenny	Riley	One25	Yes
Lewis	Stewart	The Big Issue	Yes
Naseem	Taludkar	Feed The Homeless	Yes
Penny	Walster	Shelter	Yes
Sophie	Whitaker	One25	Yes
Non-members :			
Sue	Hazelden	One25	Yes
Imogen	Chapman	BOSH	Yes
Sarah	Webb	BOSH	Yes
Apologies			
Joe	Smith	Crisis	
Val	Thompson	CCM	