

STREET CARERS' FORUM REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Notes of meeting held at 7pm, 16th September 2010, at TAVs

Present : Margaret Ashford – Cyncoed Methodist Church (MA)
Clive Bate – Cornwall Street Baptist Church and Rainbow of Hope (CB)
Graham Bird – City Temple
Paul Hocking – Thornhill Church, Cardiff Gweini Chair. Convener (PH)
Keith Kimber, ex-St John's – scribe
Paul Kirkwood, Highfields Church (PK)
Paul Laughlin – New Life Church, Cardiff (PL)
Martyn Moss, Glenwood Church (MM)
Andy Webb, Park End Church (AW)
Ian Purcell, Foodbank
Ceri Morgan, Highfields Church + colleague

In attendance: Ceri Davies - Cardiff County Council (HUB)

Apologies : Craig Evans, Paula Whittingham

Welcome: Sergeant Karen O'Neill, city centre policing team, and three members of Gweini.

1. Briefing on TAVs

PK introduced the ministry to the vulnerable carried out in TAVs, an outreach project of Glenwood Church, and gave those present a guided tour of the building and its facilities. The Glenwood Church team operates on Sunday evenings. Six other churches supply individuals and teams that operate in rotation to run the service at TAVs on Monday evenings, using criteria developed by Louise and Julian Thomas. Other users, including the Salvation Army, run sessions on other occasions during the week. The sustainable extension of regular services to other days of the week would be welcomed by Glenwood Church, making this a collaborative church venture for the inner city.

2. Basic Training evening

The room is booked in County Hall, and CD confirmed availability of Council contributors. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to secure the services of Lee Ball for this occasion but two people – Louise and Davey will present the session of substance abuse together. KK regretted that a personal commitment will now prevent him from contributing to the opening and closing sessions. PH will need to absorb relevant content into his own opening and closing material. So far only two people have registered.

Dates for further basic trainings proposed are:- 17th February and 21st May 2010. PH proposed that TAVs might be considered as a possible venue for these.

2. Food Hygiene Training

So far, two people have booked in for the level two Food Hygiene training on 2nd & 9th November. CD reported that having got the measure of her audience, our Tutor at the last session is now developing a level one qualification that can be delivered and examined in one evening, tailored to meet Street Carers' specific needs. This proposition was welcomed by all. PH expressed the hope that there would still be opportunities to offer a level two training, as this would still be beneficial in helping raise general standards with church catering teams,

and also build capacity of qualified food providers.

CD advised the meeting of a free place available in a weekly five afternoon session advanced food hygiene training module, starting on 22nd September. PH will circulate this offer to the SCF database.

3. Substance Misuse and Safety Training

The first course will be at County Hall on 2nd November. Need to discover an appropriate trainer, preferably Lee Ball (CD)

CD advised of a new two hour training package under development by New Link Wales, an independent national substance misuse organisation. See:- <http://www.newlinkwales.org.uk/>

4. City Developments regarding Homeless Services

Sgt O'Neill spoke about concerns expressed in the city centre over the Charles Street feeding station. These have arisen since shop opening until 8.00pm became the norm. Recently someone was mugged leaving M&S after work, and some shoplifting in M&S has been attributed to people leaving the soup run. Also, concerns have been occasionally expressed about the disorderly behaviour of service users, perceived as threatening by passers-by. AW stated that some homeless and vulnerable people avoided the Charles Street feeding station, because they could not cope with the aggression being expressed by some. MA confirmed this from her experience also.

Sgt O'Neill put forward for consideration a proposal to re-locate the feeding station in a car park behind Bridge Street, not only in the light of current concerns, but also in anticipation of the redevelopment of the former Ebenezer Church building opposite M&S as a prestigious restaurant venue. This is bound to generate new occasions of antagonism between service users and restaurant users, and this would benefit nobody. A new location would provide a new opportunity to raise standards of care. A meeting has been arranged for 29th September with a variety of people involved in street care provision, local authority, police and volunteers.

PH, KK and GB will attend on behalf of SCFRG, and report to the next meeting.

General concern was expressed about the need to involve Elizabeth Perret-Atkins and her RoH supporters in this process, to ensure its success and the avoidance of any contention.

The role of the Night Bus, a joint project of HANR and the Salvation Army, was discussed. Would it be possible for street care teams to develop a closer relationship with it? AW said that he'd met a regional Salvation Army leader at yesterday's conference on homelessness in Newport, and he had expressed an interest in the work of the Street Carers Forum, and this possibility needed to be explored further

5. Constitution

The generic constitution document for an Unincorporated Association applied to SCFRG had been obtained by PH and adapted by KK. It needs to be circulated and read through by SCFRG members before formal adoption. This will be done in time for the next meeting. PL has opened a bank account in the name of 'Cardiff Street Carers' Forum'. KK handed over a cheque for £100 from Cardiff Business Safe, issuing from a diverted giving campaign conducted in by CBS city centre car parks during 2007, dedicated to helping rehabilitate homeless addicts.

6. Any other business

One of the Gweini members present, Ian Purcell, reported on the progress made by the Cardiff Foodbank, which now has two distribution outlets open, with a third to follow very soon. Some church leaders and social workers have foodbank vouchers to distribute. AW asked if it was possible for street carers and TAVs volunteers to hold them as well.