

Christchurch Community Partnership Limited

43 Barrack Road CHRISTCHURCH BH23 1PA

Homeless Help

Wednesday 5 April 2017 at Bailey's Cafe

Notes of Meeting

Present: Sharon Dears *EDP*, Darren Knight *EDP*, Matt Haine & Ian *Triple F*, Ann Doughty *Your Journey*: Stefan Morawiec *POPP*, Irene Cradick *CCP & Food Bank*, Nick Coghlan *St Joseph's Church, Food Bank Steering Group*: Tracy Blick *Food Bank Plus*

Apologies: Cllr Sue Spittle, Zoe Haine *Triple F*: Debbie Urquhart *Your Journey*: Sandra Prudom *CCP*, Charlene Lloyd *CCP Mealcards*: Lou Come Home David King *Your Journey* and CCP Homeless Help Info.

Sharon introduced **Darren Knight**, the new member of the Outreach Team with involvement in SWEP. The service will now be more street focussed with 3 hours a week when a team of 2 including a volunteer will walk the streets with targeted referrals.

Sharon outlined arrangements for the **EDP Sleep Out** to be held in Saxon Square from 7pm Friday 28th April until 6am Sat 29th April. A poster is attached, please print off, display and encourage others to participate. Registration is £5 and the suggested fundraising target is £50 to raise funds for EDP Street Homeless Outreach Service. The evening starts with a performance by Funky Little Choir and there will be a number of other activities. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening. There will be stewards on duty and collecting buckets. Under 18s should be accompanied by an adult.

A number of people present indicated that they would be taking part. Ann has a supply of sleeping bags, Tracy has duvets and blankets if needed. EDP has had indications of support from various organisations including Waitrose, Rotary Club (with Shelter Box for publicity). Hope to arrange use of toilets with Christchurch Council and late opening with one of the cafes – suggested that *Triple F negotiate leftover pies/pasties from Greggs*.

Press release available. *Irene has sent Sharon Christchurch Times contacts*. Other publicity in Christchurch: Why not have flyers to distribute in pubs, restaurants and Regent Centre? Milton Musical Society is performing OKLAHOMA! at 7.30. *Why not ask if the cast would like to come over in costume after the show to perform one of their rip roaring songs (and give out flyers for their Saturday performances?)* Any other suggestions: please contact Sharon (email above).

Your Journey: Debbie unable to attend but had reported previously: They have now moved to CCP new premises at 43 Barrack Road. They have had many successes in housing people but a couple of disappointments. She hopes to arrange a Crowdfunded Flash Drop, when at a given signal participating people in the crowd drop to the ground, lie out, then get up and disperse to publicise the number of rough sleepers.

Matt informed that Triple F is continuing to serve meals from 23 Barrack Road until the end of the CCP lease. Usually they have 8-9 a night but can be as high as 15. They are very grateful to Greggs for their donations of food. Triple F are now paying the electricity and utility costs at No 23 and hope to continue use of the building with a short term lease from Christchurch Council. If not, they will have to revert to serving in the Saxon Square Car Park, which is sheltered. Everyone was concerned that this service should not be hampered, as it is a lifeline to those in need, not only with the provision of food in a dignified situation but the social, relationship and signposting help which can protect some of the vulnerable clients and help them on their way in to mainstream life styles. Both Irene and Tracy offered to contact Ashley to support the Triple F application, which would be just while the building is empty.

(It was decided that the Rough Sleeper Cards would not be reprinted until the Triple F location is resolved. A local business has made a donation to cover the cost.)

Triple F and the Bike Project now have a van to collect donations and help with moving in the clients when they are housed. This will be useful for the Furniture Bank, which is part of Food Bank Plus, as they supply much of the furniture and home equipment packs issued to clients.

The **Church Task and Finish Group** are working on recruiting and training volunteers for Sleep Safe in the Winter months at some churches where members are keen to live out their faith in practical terms. One church will be providing beds and bedding that can be moved on each of the three evenings: likely to be Fri, Sat and Sundays. Faithworks Wessex will provide the training for the 50 + volunteers needed. It is hoped that this pilot scheme will be rolled out to other churches to increase the nights available.

Safeguarding: issues were discussed about the dangers of working with rough sleepers. Sometimes, kind people forget that there can be very negative issues that caused people to become homeless: this can contain the full range of reasons: ex-offenders with a history of violence, anger management, paedophiles, rapists, as well as those who have just had an unfortunate background with perhaps a family breakdown etc.

Members of the public should never offer anyone a bed for the night and children should never be involved in a situation where they are helping homeless people. Once they have met someone, they stop being a stranger and all the safeguards of Stranger, Danger no longer apply, especially if the child's name or school are known.

Through Food Bank **Tracy** is setting up a Buddy system to provide telephone support for rough sleepers and sofa surfers who have been housed. Perhaps a Goldline, similar to the Silverline for elderly people? The entrance at Food Bank is to be re-organised over Easter to provide storage for home need equipment etc. The noticeboard is to be revamped to publicise the different organisations and celebrate the joined up thinking. She is to attend a meeting with Richard Knott and will send details if it should have included others.

The **Info sheet** has been updated and is attached to the Minutes for those who have not had a copy. Dave welcomes corrections and additional information as he will be re-issuing the guidance soon. His email address for this is ccp.homelessinfo@gmail.com. He hopes to put together a simple A4 sheet with guidance for churches.

Charlene sent a report about the success of the **meal cards**. So far almost 1000 cards have been sold, with more than a quarter given out directly and the remainder being distributed to our partner charities and organisations. Bailey's Cafe and Cuckoos Coffee Bar continue to provide meals. Kelly's Kitchen will be stepping down from the scheme at Easter when their hectic holiday season starts, but they will rejoin in the Autumn. Two venues to buy meal cards; Bailey's Cafe and Christchurch Information Centre. There is a Senior Lunch Club at Bailey's Café at Wednesday lunchtimes which has been a great success. Always on the lookout for other venues who would like to join the scheme. More info on our website: <http://www.christchurchcommunitypartnership.org.uk> or contact ccp.mealcards@gmail.com

Lou of the Come Home Facebook page sent a message explaining that they are looking to find out what other organisations do to help the Homeless locally, to connect people in the community who are wanting to help, by letting them know what organisations are available and what help is needed. Her e-mail address is theoandlou@gmail.com Please e-mail her and let her know what you do, and what kind of help or donations you are looking for and also if you have a Facebook page to link to the Come Home page, for promoting and letting people know how they can get involved, either with donations, support or volunteering.

Having looked at the page, some suggestions were made about improving the way the Facebook page is presented to give it added weight. A little more information is needed about the background to the page and what it is hoped to achieve. Inclusion of Lou's explanation above would give it context and credibility. It might be worth considering aspects of the safeguarding issues discussed earlier as well.

CCP offer: If you work for a small charity or community group and need office space, you may be able to work with us in our new facilities. You are invited to our Open Afternoon on **Friday 5 May** from 2pm-4pm to see what accommodation we have and find out more about our projects. Our entrance is at the rear of the premises. Cars can be parked at Pit Site Car Park. Please contact us on ccp.vforum@gmail.com for more information.

Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 7 June** 2pm at CCP office 43 Barrack Road, BH23 1PA.