

Christchurch Community Partnership Limited

23 Barrack Road CHRISTCHURCH BH23 1PA

Homeless Help

Wednesday 7 December 2016 at CCP office

Notes of Meeting

Present: Sandra Prudom, CCP CBC Food Bank Plus: Ann Doughty, Your Journey: Lee Stanley, Your Journey: Debbie Urquhart, Your Journey: Stefan Morawiec, POPP, Charlene Lloyd, CCP Mealcards: Susie Groves, EDP: Ruth Dunsby, Salvation Army BH1: Marianne Dancer Streetlife volunteer. Sam Clarke, CCP, Irene Cradick, CCP Food Bank.

Apologies: Cllr Sue Spittle, Zoe Haine Triple F: Nick Coghlan St Joseph's Church, Food Bank Steering Group: Tracy Blick, Food Bank Plus

Updates from participants

Your Journey: Debbie

Provides help and support for hard to place homeless and vulnerable people with complex needs and a Christchurch connection. They may be sleeping rough, living in cars or B&Bs. Support can include help with any issues: identification, benefits, medical etc with ongoing support for a couple of months, working in partnership with other agencies to address any identified needs including clothing furniture, home equipment.

The service is in such demand it has been extended to provide two sessions: 12-2 appointments for council assessment work and 2-4 Drop In. Interested people are sent to the Council for assessment of their eligibility. Debbie and Justin have three volunteers helping: which includes the provision of a light lunch, access to clothing and laptop.

Your Journey, through the kindness of a local landlord, has a house which can be used. Residents who prove their reliability are considered for other accommodation. They do not need to provide references or a deposit but can build their deposit and references during their time there. Feedback from the residents is very positive.

Debbie's vision is to acquire a bus as someone has done on the IOW. This would provide advice area, kitchen, shower and sleeping pods. <http://thebusshelteriow.co.uk/about-us/>

Fundraising for their work is through GIMME SHELTER Details to be supplied. **Please consider this as one of your Xmas gifts.** Suggestions were made for other fundraising means: Table top sales, Auction of Promises and other little events.

EDP/SHOT: Susie updated the group on how the SHOT team are working with the team visiting and supporting known rough sleepers. Concerns can be registered through STREETLINK. The local Severe Weather Emergency Protocol was implemented the previous week but only 2 people took advantage of it. Lee pointed out that when rough sleepers have found a 'pitch' it can be disruptive to leave it. **EDP is being supported by the Waitrose green token scheme and request your support.** Plans are afoot for a Dorset Sleep Out to raise awareness and funds for their work. A new version of the info help available sheet was circulated with alterations to the EDP input.

From Churches meetings: Sandra

The churches have a Task and Finish Group which considers the work done by other groups including CCP and Food Bank and is focussing on the provision of a Sleepsafe emergency bed scheme. It was suggested that Hope House would provide temporary accommodation on Friday and Saturday nights. There was discussion about the practical difficulties. Extensive training is required to cover any difficulties which may occur. Faithworks have delivered this training in Bournemouth and it is anticipated they would be requested to do this in Christchurch.

Twelve volunteers would be needed to work in teams to cover evening with meal, through the night and a morning session with breakfast. Lee's information about the problems of how unsettling disruption

can be was discussed and Debbie's hope for a bus could be the answer. Debbie and Ann will explore this further and hope to travel to IOW for more information.

Christchurch Baptist Church Xmas Lunch: Sandra

This event is open to anyone who will be alone or unable to provide a traditional Christmas and is very popular. Referrers are reminded that the closing date for applications is FRIDAY 16th December (unless there is a real emergency.....) Telephone the Baptist Church on 01202 487442

Food Bank: from Tracy

The Food Bank is now Food Bank Plus to cover the various aspects of the provision of food parcels, including 'kettle packs' for rough sleepers, furniture bank, home equip packs, laundry service for clothes and sleeping bags and cookery courses. It has been decided not to proceed with the community meal provision at present until the level of need has been assessed. Instead, use will be made of the CCP Meal Card scheme, with support provision being available on Fridays at Baileys Café, supplying underwear, sock, gloves etc.

FFF: Zoe was unable to attend to report but it is understood that meals are being provided 5 evenings a week and until the end of the year they are able to use the CCP lounge on the 5th evening as no meetings will be taking place on Wednesdays.

Meal cards: Irene

Through birthday gifts, church sales and church and school Fairs, more than 300 cards have been sold, with over 200 given to various charities and organisations for onward distribution, and most of the rest sold to the general public to give personally. Charlene has taken over the running of this scheme and can be contacted on ccp.mealcards@gmail.com The team is in the process of signing up at least 2 other restaurants/cafes as soon as the terms of agreement are sorted with each. Radio Solent has picked up the idea and is featuring an item about kindness at Christmas. Lee hopes to be one of those interviewed.

Access Dorset: Sarah was unable to attend to report but she is working with several local clients and making use of the CCP lounge for client meetings.

Info sheet: Dave will be updating the info sheet and will probably be contacting you in the New Year to check it. His email address for this is ccp.homelessinfo@gmail.com. The info sheet is attached and you are welcome to display and circulate it as you wish.

Community Forum: Sandra/Irene The next Community Forum ***Celebrating Volunteering*** is on Wednesday 18 January 5.30-7 with refreshments from 5pm and will include Volunteer of the Year Award presentation, updates from various people and organisations are invited to have a table to display and share their materials and recruit new volunteers.

POPP: Stefan, new Champion for Christchurch Locality, shared details of changes within POPP, which has now extended the brief to deal the difficulties of social isolation for all adults, though staffing is shrinking until replacements are found. He is co-ordinating a safety event at the ARC on 28th Feb (formerly sloppy slippers) which may be relevant to anyone supporting vulnerable people of 55+

We would like to thank all the new people who attended for the first time, all of whom made interesting and helpful contributions. We hope to see you all again to let us know how you have become involved. Subsequent discussion resulted in a name change. As you can see we are now HOMELESS HELP.

Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 1 February at 2pm** Please save the date, Venue to be notified.