

# STREET CARERS' FORUM REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Notes of meeting held at 7pm, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010, at County Hall

Present : Paul Hocking – Thornhill Church, Cardiff Gweini Chair. Convener (PH)  
Keith Kimber, ex-St John's – scribe

In attendance: Ceri Davies (CD) and Phil Lewis (CD) - Cardiff County Council (HUB)

Apologies : Martyn Moss, Paul Kirkwood and Andy Webb

1. PH explained that meeting attendance was unusually poor, most likely because the emailed reminder notice of the meeting date was by hit a malfunction hindering normal sending and reception of messages over the weekend beforehand. Nevertheless there were still matters to report on and information to share with those absent, through the minutes.

## 2. Basic Training evening

All agree this was a deserved success. Eighteen volunteers had taken part and many brought photos and CRB certificates for registering, others were photographed in situ. PH would ensure that CD received the photos and registration information currently in his possession. Five participants filled in forms giving positive feedback after the event.

## 2. Further Training Modules

Both the Food Hygiene and Substance Abuse modules were ready to take place in rooms side by side in County Hall on 2nd November, starting at 6.30pm. The Food Hygiene training will again be done by the same tutor as last time, who is designing an introductory course to fit Street Carers. The Substance Abuse module will be done by a team from New Link Wales. Discussion took place about what particular elements of each course might be adapted to suit the needs and concerns of Street Carers, and some suggestions drawn up for PL and CD to pass on to the trainers.

## 3. Constitution

PH had found, edited and circulated a less complex draft constitution for an Unincorporated Association, more applicable to the basic needs of SCF. This was briefly discussed and some suggestions made to modify the purposes and aims of the circulated document. Adoption of this constitution was not possible on this occasion, with so few members present. The revised draft will need to be circulated and read through by SCFRG members before formal adoption at a better attended meeting.

## 4. City Developments regarding Homeless Services

The meeting set up by Sgt O'Neil with members of HANR, City Centre Management and SCFRG took place on 29th September, and participants were charged to explore different options of re-locating the Charles Street feeding station and report back at a second meeting on 11th October, this morning. RoH had been invited but no representative attended.

PH & KK attended this morning's meeting. Elizabeth Perret-Atkins (EPA) and Bruce Pringle were also present, in response to an invitation from Paula Whittingham. Sgt O'Neill, at whose request the meetings were being held, did not attend.

EPA spoke of the work she was now developing in the office space RoH is now renting upstairs in the Friends Meeting House, 45 Charles Street. She announced that her own concern about the current location of the Paradise Run site, had led her into active pursuit of one or two alternatives. One alternative may be the Friends' Meeting House, where the RoH office is. Mike Friel suggested we meet again in 3 weeks, to consider the options further.

There was no discussion of what this would mean for all those involved in the Paradise Run church rota. The meeting adjourned and resolved to re-convene for a further report from EPA on 1st November.

#### 6. Any other business

PL said that he had five needle safety equipment packs available for distribution to Street Carers. It was agreed that TAVs, and Street Pastors' Tabernacle Church base would be two suitable places worth approaching about this. Andy Webb, Graham Bird and Margaret Ashford, on the basis of their activities, to be asked if holding a pack would be useful to their work. Any who receive the packs would need to attend the substance misuse training.

PL is a qualified Mental Health First Aid trainer, and is offering a full certified training course of 4-6 evening sessions. He'd also be willing to design a special one evening introductory module for Street Carers which could serve as a foundation for anyone wanting to develop their expertise further. This could be put on early summer 2011.

PL & CD propose an information leaflet aimed at the student community over the festive season as the spontaneous emergence of homeless feeding initiatives by ill-equipped and inexperienced young people, has been observed in times past, and this has not been without its risks and problems. They felt it would be far better to issue recruitment and training information and draw new people moved to action, into the SCF. PH & KK agreed with this idea. KK raised the matter of developing a simple website to support wider communication. PH could arrange distribution to all Christian Union groups in the local student community.

#### 7. Next meeting: 7.00pm on 15th November at County Hall