

STREET CARERS' FORUM REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Notes of meeting held 13th April 2010, at County Hall

Present : Paul Laughlin – New Life Church, Cardiff (PL)
Clive Bate – Cornwall Street Baptist Church and Rainbow of Hope (CB)
Keith Kimber – St John's City Parish, meeting recorder (KK)
Paul Hocking – Thornhill Church, Cardiff Gweini Chair, and meeting convener (PH)

Apologies : Paul Kirkwood, Louise Thomas, Andy Webb, Martyn Moss, Craig Evans, Paula Whittingham, Ceri Davies

Purpose of meeting

- a) Review of training evening.
- b) Update on registration / accreditation

1. Training evening

PL thought that the overall timing of the evening's content was better, and observed that there was more need for interaction between contributors and participants. The substance misuse session was not as effective as first training session. It would be good if we could ensure that Lee Ball delivers this session each time.

The need for all team leaders to be CRB checked was re-iterated. In the eyes of HANR, a current CRB certificate, for whatever purpose, will suffice for the present. All volunteers need to be urged to obtain a CRB check through their local church, if they don't yet have one.

CB expressed his concern about volunteers from small churches without a CRB check procedure in place. He had learned the VAC procedure is open only to its employees and not to outside volunteers. We need to explore the possibility that larger, well organised churches or denominational associations may be able to perform a CRB check on behalf of someone who is unable to obtain one by any other means, as long as the church knows the volunteer concerned.

The question of volunteer age eligibility was raised, in the light of discussion at the training evening, and the conclusion was that 18+ remained most desirable, and 18- be discouraged, generally speaking. KK thought that, if there were younger volunteers or observers, they should be accompanied at all times, and preferably by two other adults, in recognition of the need for shielding them from the volatility of some of the service users.

Volunteer advice on dressing properly for an evening on the streets needed more emphasis, to avoid situations in which individuals turned up inappropriately dressed (including being over exposed).

The need was noted to encourage future training evening participants to register with their CRB certificates and photos during the break.

Louise Thomas wishes to withdraw from SCFRG, because of the development demands of TAVs. She is willing to continue participation in volunteer training, however.

2. Accreditation of volunteers

There is a need to cross check our existing list of volunteers who have gone through training, to establish which churches they all come from.

3. Funding, constitution

PH & KK will consider model constitutions with a view to developing one for the SCF, so that it will be possible to open an account in the name of SCF. The constitution would need to be adopted by a general meeting of volunteers – possibly on an occasion with a keynote speaker of interest.

5. Any other business

CB drew attention to the plight of refused asylum seekers awaiting deportation, and rendered destitute as a result of the withdrawal of support mechanisms. Some of these are turning up on the streets in need of care. This is a matter of concern that SCFRG could explore with HANR and others, to consider what might be done to help them.

6. Future meetings

Next SCFRG meeting at County Hall or possibly TAVs in a first or third week of the month, possibly a Thursday on some occasions to make it easier for some SCFRG members of attend.

Proposed dates for **SCFRG meetings** are:

- Thursday, 13th May at 7pm at TAVs
- Tuesday, 29th June at 7pm at TAVs
- Tuesday, 14th September at 7pm at County Hall?

Basic Training Dates:

- Tuesday 22nd June at County Hall
- Tuesday, 28th September at 7pm at County Hall

Further Training Dates

- 18th May – Food Hygiene Part 1 – 7-10pm, County Hall
- 25th May – Food Hygiene Part 2 – 7-10pm, County Hall
- 25th May – Substance Misuse and Health and Safety – 7pm-9.30pm, County Hall
- 2nd Nov – Food Hygiene Part 1 – 7-10pm, County Hall
- 2nd Nov – Substance Misuse and Health and Safety – 7pm-9.30pm, County Hall
- 9th Nov – Food Hygiene Part 2 – 7-10pm, County Hall