



West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network (C.I.O)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14th February 2019

AGENDA

1) Apologies for absence

Mary Brandon – Asylum Matters
Dick Davies – Chair of Wakefield City of Sanctuary
John Hebden – Hope Housing, Bradford
Matt Thornfield – WYDAN Trustee
Pascale Gayford – Refugee Action

2) Present

Will Sutcliffe – Abigail Housing / Bradford City of Sanctuary / Beacon
Andrew Rathbone – Leeds Refugee Forum / WYDAN Trustee (acting Chair)
Brian Hamill – Wakefield City of Sanctuary
Paul Caterall - NACCOM
Jon Beech – LASSN, Leeds
Samuel Baka - Red Cross
Gillian Tober – WYDAN Shelter Steering Group Chair
Dave Paterson – Unity in Poverty Action / Leeds Homeless Charter
Audrey Smith – St. Augustine's, Halifax
May Halsey – WYDAN Trustee (Minutes)

3) Minutes of last AGM on 13th December 2017.

a) The minutes were agreed.

4) Trustees' Report.

a) MH shared about the work of the network:

- Meetings during the financial year 2017 – 18 were held in Wakefield, Bradford, Leeds and Halifax.

- Meeting have focused on the following areas:
 - Provision of accommodation
 - Legal provision
 - Healthcare
 - Data sharing between organisations
 - Involvement in relevant campaigns (in partnership with Asylum Matters)
 - Engagement with statutory services, including homelessness services.
- Some areas of work included:
 - Looking at hardship funds in the different areas and the possibility of setting up one for West Yorkshire.
 - Sharing updates on changes with healthcare charging, the different responses in the regions, people's interpretation of the laws and stories of how Destitute Asylum Seekers are being impacted.
 - Looking at what information is currently shared between organisations and how this could be developed.
- The strengths of the network are information sharing and networking. The challenges have been having the resources and time to develop the partnership work.
- They are excited about the partnership with NACCOM and involvement in the Hub meetings.

b) Feedback from members:

- WS said that he thinks one of the benefits of the network is that it enables people in the sector to build relationships and how important it is to already know each other when we need to interact about our service users.
- AS suggested that WYDAN members could pay an annual subscription fee, maybe £20 a year to cover costs.
- JB talked about what the benefits of membership are. Could members have a bigger say in the direction of the network?

c) AS talked about the WYDAN Night Shelter:

- It opened again on the 29th of October and since then has provided 760 nights to 20 individuals (male destitute asylum seekers).
- The average occupancy rate up till the 25th of Jan was 75%. It is rarely at full capacity (10 people) because of guests coming and going.
- They might not be able to continue after April, as recruiting hosts has been a slower process than hoped. Others are interested in being hosts but it takes time to set up.
- The shelter runs under the WYDAN umbrella but the day to day operations are delegated to a separate Steering Group, which includes one WYDAN Trustee (Andrew Rathbone) and people actively involved in the Shelter.
- Thanks to Gillian Tober, who chairs the Steering Group.

- They are trying to strengthen the Steering Group with more members. They need more resources for fundraising.

d) Feedback from members:

- JB said that the shelter means that people have a choice of where they can go. The Shelter is meeting a need that is there. There is an intersection between people that could stay at Grace Hosting and the shelter: when the shelter stopped last year, Grace were able to accommodate people. Having more services available creates a different pressure with organisations looking for funding etc. from the same pots / asking the same people. The Red Cross and PAFRAS are important in making decisions re: where someone is placed. The first choice for someone may not be the best for them in the long run – what are the routes out?
- BH - Is there a list of hosts available? How many Roman Catholic Churches host? GT has this information and is happy to share it – please contact her.

5) Financial Report and presentation of the accounts for the 2017-18 financial year.

a) See the report attached:

- A large proportion of the income was from donations.
- The expenses are almost entirely for the Shelter.
- WYDAN have been getting better at getting grant funding.
- Funding bids take a lot of time and energy and this is currently behind schedule.
- Standing Orders – we have two people who give this way.
- Shelter hosts usually fundraise for their own expenses and hand over any balance at the end of the week.

b) WYDAN got an Unqualified Independent Examination from WYCAS.

6) Election of trustees.

a) More trustees are needed:

- John Hebden who currently works at Hope Housing is interested in joining the board. He was the driving force behind the setting up of WYDAN.
- Peter Noble was interested but now has other commitments. He may be available in 18 months-time. Come he come on the board earlier as a silent partner?
- Role descriptions for WYDAN Trustees have been drafted and can be sent out.