

Nepean/ Blacktown Regional Taskforce on Homelessness
Wednesday 25th Aug 2010 2pm
@ Penrith City Council
Library Theatre

1. **Chair:** Felicity Reynolds **Minutes:** Tracey Gray

Following welcome by Felicity and introductions, Vesna Kapetanovic acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on behalf of Penrith City Council.

Apologies: Natasha Mc Dermott(Blacktown City Council), Blue Mountains Council representatives, Robynne Cole(Community services), Trevor Clark(Consumer Advocate), Councillor Karen McKeown(Penrith City Council), Madeleine Pusic(Centrelink)

2. **Acceptance of Last Meetings Minutes** Nick Sabel moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held 30th June 2010, seconded Indiana Black.

3. **Business Arising:**

Before discussion on the Actions arising from the previous meeting, Felicity acknowledged the great events for the funding announcement and official launch of Project 40 as a funded service

- a. Rough Sleepers protocol to be included in Ten Year Plan. Vesna reported back on the progress of this Protocol.
- b. Felicity to follow up meeting with Minister Terenzini. A meeting time still hasn't been made and Vesna will speak to Cr McKeown regarding progress.
- c. Asset audit document tabled. The Council officers who comprise the Nepean/ Blacktown Homelessness Council Officers group (Vesna Kapetanovic, Michael Laing, Ryn Vlachou, Natasha McDermott) were congratulated on this excellent document. It will be a key resource for the regional 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Motion moved: *Felicity moved a motion of appreciation to all four Councils in recognition of the work and resources to collate this document and suggested a letter be sent to the General Managers of each Council acknowledging their contribution, seconded by Paula Webber.*

- d. Regional Homelessness Info Wallet Card to be developed Karen Brown (Project 40) and Clare O'Rance (Student, Wentworth Community Housing) distributed draft copies of Homelessness Info Card. Feedback or suggestions to be emailed to karenb@wentworth.org.au.

ACTION ARISING 1: Karen will liaise with Vesna from Penrith City Council for review by regional Council's Homelessness Committee.

- e. Hawkesbury Outreach Hub targeting Rough Sleepers. The inaugural Hub was run in August, based on the Woolloomooloo model, whose main purpose is to exit rough sleepers from homelessness through connecting them with support and housing.

The Hub was a resounding success with over 50 rough sleepers estimated as attending. Since that time over 20 Hawkesbury rough sleepers have been supported to complete housing applications. Hawkesbury Gazette ran good coverage which described the concept of Housing First.

Appreciation must go to the partners, both government and non-government, who worked collectively to run the day so well. Hubs in other LGAs will be arranged soon, possibly Penrith next.

- f. Steph Oatley and Louie Griffin to present on the Accommodation proposal developed by Louie. As they were not present this item was postponed.
- g. Sub Committee to meet regarding Shower proposal for rough sleepers. Planning still in progress as have made contact with PCYC due to their involvement with the Community Kitchen. Next meeting is scheduled for 14th September. PCYC are already in process of lodging submission for Community Building Partnerships funding for another maintenance issue and don't want to compete at this stage. Currently rough sleepers can access showers at Penrith Pool. The Women's Health Centre in Katoomba have also developed a proposal for a shower for women under Community Building Partnership funding. In the Hawkesbury there was a facility across the River used by rough sleepers but this has been vandalised and Council had initially decided not to repair. However after discussions between the rough sleepers and Michael from Council, they hope to get this functioning again.

4. General Business:

- a. 10 Year Consultations with Community sector

It is proposed that the Taskforce endorse consultation in each local government area, following the model which will be used in the Blue Mountains on Wednesday 17th November. Morning will be educative and provide services with a Toolkit for assisting homeless clients. The afternoon will be a planning/consultation session for Council officers, Service managers and so on facilitated by Felicity to gain the sector's input into developing the 10 year Plan.

- b. Discussion on 10 Year Plan

See Attached Appendix for Ten Year Plan Needs/Issues/Solutions discussion

Based on these discussions it was suggested that some speakers be arranged for future Taskforce meetings.

ACTION ARISING 2: Mary Waterford will contact Mary Perkins from Shelter. Paula Webber will contact Corrective Services about a presentation.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 29th Sept 2010 2-4.30pm Passadena Room, Penrith City Council
Wednesday 27th October, 2010 Penrith Library Theatre
Wednesday 24th November, 2010 Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre