

Minutes for Intergroup Meeting

21st July 2015

Venue: Staines Baptist Fellowship Hall, 16 Hales Road, Staines TW18 4UW

Members Present:

Karen	Chairman
Dan	Treasurer
Paul	Armed Services/Telephone Liaison
Tara	Probation
Steve	ECLO
Philippa	Health
Nessa	Prison
Fiona	Secretary
Pat	Greenford
Greta	Laleham
Kevin	North Middx Intergroup
Andy	Feltham/Hounslow
Ann	Staines
Gabbie	Northfields (1.00p.m Friday)
Alan	Sunbury on Thames
Kate	Staines
Teresa	Staines
Danny	Staines
Andrew	Staines
Kelvin	Ealing Windsor Road
Christopher	Staines
Angela	Staines
Alesha	Ealing Windsor Road

1. Treasurers Update

Treasurer explained that the money currently in the bank account is for use for the next year. There are 58 meetings in South Middlesex and only 22 contribute financially to Intergroup. Usually the surplus is used to support other people. We are currently down £359.58 vs last year £2048 less than last year which has a knock on effect on next year. Intergroup usually send £2,000 per year to the London office so, therefore, we are £4,000 down on last year. Money from Intergroup is used to provide:

- appointment cards at Ealing hospital
- TV screens to advertise our services
- Prison literature
- Treasurer confirm that there are 2 months left for the financial year, and confirmed that we are not in financial difficulty.
- Cash book – identify group cash flow
- Spend of London Region North contribution. Amount divided by number of meeting's .
- Chair wanted to see if people are contributing to Intergroup although she stated that it was not forced.

2. Meetings without Service Commitments

It has been reported back that are several meeting not being serviced properly throughout our Intergroup due to lack of members willing to do service. Although all groups are autonomous, it is suggested that groups who are struggling to open or who are not fully self-supporting could close for a duration of time. It could cost lives if meetings which are on the website are not open, as well as insurance implications for AA. If there are any AA groups which do not have full time secretaries to open every week, please let me know. We are here to help the groups stay open but obviously I want to make sure that everyone is safe and we are covered effectively with insurance.

3. Open Day May 25th 2015

Very successful evening and have managed to fill three of our Intergroup vacancies. Welcome to Steve, our new ECLO, Phillipa, our new Health rep covering Staines, Ashford and Feltham, and Patrick, our new Share rep. All have been voted in. John J has offered his services as Region Rep and will hopefully be voted in at our next meeting on 23rd September.

4. iHear Recovery Unit, Hounslow

Apparently the support received is not consistent. Suggested an introductory workshop inviting service users to discuss the options of recovery and AA to do a presentation. This was held on Thursday 6 August at 2.00 pm, and thank you to Ann, Christopher, Pat, Jeremy, Tony and Michael who came along to support this cause. We had three services users from iHear who did have some misconceptions about AA, but feel confident that they would like to try AA as a means to help towards their recovery. iHear would also like us to do another presentation and they will encourage more people to attend.

5. Sponsorship Workshop

It has been suggested that we hold a sponsorship workshop to encourage people to sponsor and to encourage sponsorship into service. It has been voted that we hold two workshops before the end of the year so I will start to organise this as a matter of priority.

6. GSR and Intergroup Rep Reports

Danny – GSR, Staines proposed having a contact sheet for all GSRs – it was agreed. Karen to speak to Steve re: organising contact sheet.

Paul – Telephone Liaison/ASLO Rep – moved to London Bridge and need 2 extra volunteers as the number of calls as increased. Telephone training is held on the 1st Monday of the month. Volunteers should have 1 year' sobriety. Please contact myself or Paul should you wish to do service and can we all please discuss this service at groups.

Vanessa – Prison Rep - currently have 10 volunteers – visits takes place every Saturday morning in rotation. Always looking for new volunteers – mainly women. You will need to have basic security checks – please contact me regarding forms for completion. £200 has been spent on literature. It was asked at the meeting what the length of sobriety is required to do prison visits and the recommendation is three years.

Tara – Probation Rep. Reported that Hounslow and Ealing probation have a high turnover of staff, but Tara is on the case. Tara has visited most of our meetings and we now have a 'Chit' system in place.

Danny – GSR, Staines – group have had problems with harassment/inappropriate/threatening behaviour from a member of the group. It was agreed that the situation should be handled

delicately and with compassion, however, it should be noted that AA members are not qualified to deal with mental health problems. At the Conference in April an amendment has been made for pages 82-85 of the AA Structure Handbook in situations of persistent inappropriate behaviour and recommendations are as follows:

Page 83 – what can be done? Add 4th paragraph: In cases of persistent inappropriate/predatory sexual/threatening/violent behaviour that prevents the carrying of the AA message, groups may refer to the following by Bill W:

“This amount of charity does not mean that we cannot exclude those who disturb meetings or seriously interfere with the functioning of the group. Such people can be asked to quiet down or go elsewhere, or to come back when they are better able to participate” Letter from Bill W 1969.

Page 84 – what can be done about unacceptable behaviour?
Additional paragraph added, as below:

“If the group conscience deems it necessary, unacceptable behaviour may result in temporary exclusion from the group. The ultimate decision on return of the offender rests with the group conscience”.

It was agreed that all the groups attended by this individual hold a group conscience and decide upon a united, consistent and appropriate course of action. It must be noted however, that all members should be protected.

Gabby – GSR Northfields - confirmed that all service positions were filled and group running smoothly.

Nessa – GSR Staines, confirmed that she was handing over her GSR position to Andrew in Staines. Welcome Andrew!

Alan – Treasurer, Sunbury mentioned that there is no sponsorship support in meetings regarding service, he was advised to use Intergroup for help. Karen to attend Sunbury meeting on Tuesday 25th August to discuss service.

Next Meeting

Time, Date and Venue to be confirmed

