

**Minutes for Intergroup Meeting**  
**30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015**  
**Venue: United Reformed Church, Hounslow**  
**07.45 – 09.15**

**Members Present:**

Karen	Chairman
Mary	Minutes
Ivan	Chair, London Region (North)
Jeremy	Bayham Road Admin Group
Gabbie	G.S.R., Northfields, Fri -1 p.m.
Paul	Armed Services/Telephone Liaison
Tara	Probation
Tadek	Action, Polish Meeting, Windsor Road, Ealing
Patrick	Hayes End, Sunday Meeting
Kevin	Chairman, North Middlesex
Ann	GSR, Staines, Women In Recovery, Monday Meeting
Greta	G.S.R., Laleham, Sunday
Noel	North Middlesex Intergroup
Philippa	Health Liaison Officer, South Middlesex
Michael	GSR, Brentford, Sunday lunchtime
Steve	E.C.L.O
Kamal	GSR Greenford, Wed
Bill D	Winter Blues Convention, Greenford
Susan	Vice Chair, Intergroup and GSR Northfields
Gillian	GSR Greenford & Mattock Lane, Ealing

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes from previous meeting were approved and agreed. The meeting commenced with the reading of the preamble and 12 traditions of AA (short version).

- Karen, Chairman, introduced, Ivan, Chair of London Region North to the group.
- Ivan, introduced himself to the group and outlined the role of London Region North, its role within A.A. London Region North covers a large area, supporting three Intergroup making up, Kensington, Chelsea, Fulham, City, West End, North and South Middlesex.
- He outlined the fact that A.A. is a registered charity with a registered charity number. Meetings are run by a team of group members who take on the role of secretary, treasurer, literature secretary, tea and coffee provider and greeters. Groups are encouraged to appoint a Group Service Representative (GSR), generally with a proven track record in service, who coordinates the service activity for the group. GSR's from each group attend the twice monthly intergroup meeting.
- In keeping with the "upside down" triangular structure of AA, Region exists to support the A.A. groups at "grass root" level and the office in York (where delegates from all regions gather for conference, once a year) exists to support all the regions and all the groups within Great Britain.

- One of the main responsibilities of region is to set budgets, made up of certain fixed costs such as funding for hospital screens, funding for the deaf and hard of hearing meetings, running costs for the telephone service office etc. In keeping with Tradition 7, all groups must be self-supporting, both financially and with regards to servicing the meeting. When running costs, such as room hire, literature, etc are deducted, groups are required to submit any leftover monies to GSO. As a general rule, groups should have a 10% contingency built in to cover their running costs. Region also pays their running costs and anything left over goes to York.
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- South Middlesex Intergroup are meant to pay £3,000 a year, but are not meeting that amount at present. £47 should be forthcoming from each group per year. However, not all groups within South Middlesex Intergroup are covering their costs.
- South Middlesex Intergroup have more meetings than any other intergroup in the country. To provide an example, North Middlesex Intergroup has 26 meetings and South Middlesex have 68. Crucially, multi meetings are not counted as single meetings. An example given is that Lombard Street have 8 meetings per week, made up of morning and evening meetings. Bayham Road have 14 meetings per week, made up of morning, evening, lunchtime and weekends. However each meeting is regarded as a separate entity.
- For multi meeting groups, it is important to have a representative from each group at Intergroup. That is to include a secretary, treasurer and GSR for each group.
- It was also noted at the meeting that there is still a shortage of service positions and filling all the service positions at the meetings is still a major problem. It was mentioned that we can create a problem by creating too many meetings/setting up too many groups and then feeling that we have to keep them.
- It was recommended that cutting back on poorly attended meetings to allow others to flourish would be a solution. However, each consistently poorly attended group should make the decision through a group conscience. Ivan wished to make it clear that each group should decide whether it should or should not remain open and the decision is made at group level.
- Karen, chairman said that one of the reasons Ivan was invited to attend Intergroup was so that GSR's can become more aware of what is required to be a self-supporting meeting in terms of finance and service. Groups need to give a positive message to the newcomer and the newcomer needs to attend a meeting where service is properly in place, the newcomer should easily gain entrance, be greeted, given a cup of tea and made to feel welcome as opposed to entering a room where only two people are present. Groups were liable for insurance indemnity and meetings need to be safe places where health and safety issues are regarded.
- All in attendance were invited to comment on matters arising from the meeting and recommendations made.
- Questions and comments raised by GSR's and others were: - Why is attendance poor at Intergroup level, why are newcomers not so forthcoming at meetings. If the numbers of meetings are an issue, how many meetings should be trimmed back in order for others to flourish, given that there is a general sense of apathy around service commitments at each. One GSR asked if he is GSR at a poorly attended meeting, could he attend a well attended meeting and encourage members to join the healthier meeting. A member asked if it could

be possible to encourage members to do service at meetings for short periods, i.e. 3 months at a time, rather than, perhaps, overwhelm members by asking them to do service for a year. Probation Officer raised the matter of CHIT meetings and explained that in setting up CHIT meetings, it had to be accepted that only certain meetings were accepting of CHIT's and that was better than spreading CHIT meetings too thinly also. The treasurer was asked to give an account of meetings that were not self-supporting from a financial perspective, but it treasurer clarified that it doesn't work in that way.

- Ivan specified that region and conference are always looking for more delegates and there is a vacancy for a board member.
- Ivan also pointed out that a list of groups in your area can be obtained from GSO. The GSR's have responsibility for updating that list.

#### **Any Other Business**

Can all groups please inform GSO if they are open over the Christmas and New Year Period. The flyers for Winter Blues Greenford Convention will be distributed to GSR's as soon as possible.

**Next Meeting – TBA**

**Venue T.B.A.**