

MINUTES: 36th Derbyshire Intergroup

12th September 2009

AGENDA

- 1 - Apologies
- 2 - Matters arising, - including feedback from groups about Anonymity card meeting
- 3 - Treasurer's Report - Liz
- 4 - Group Public Liability insurance - Tony
- 5 - PI and Region Reports - Geraldine
- 6 - Website update/feedback from groups to questions - Nick
- 7 - Telephone committee 12 stepper forms - Heather/Peter

8 - Any other business

1 - Attending:

Heather (Chair)- Long Eaton

Geraldine - Derby, Wednesday

Jez - Derby, Wednesday GSR

Carina - Derby, Saturday GSR

Simon - Derby Visitor

Ben - Derby Visitor

Chas -Ashbourne

Glen - Long Eaton

Mac - Ilkeston, Friday GSR

Ingrid - Ashbourne, Thursday GSR

Liz - Matlock, Wednesday

Sue - Bakewell, Friday GSR

Nick - Long Eaton, Tuesday

Claire - Matlock, Wednesday

Visitors:

Dean - Mini-convention convenor

Peter - Telephone Liaison Officer (East Midlands)

Tony - Treasurer for Notts & Leics Intergroup

Apologies:

Wendy (Ilkeston, Monday GSR), Amanda (Share rep), Val, Ashbourne

2 - Matters arising, - including feedback from groups about Anonymity card meeting

Heather asked group reps how the response was re the anonymity cards, as discussed at the last Intergroup meeting.

Liz reported that the Matlock group felt they were a very good idea and they will be putting them in all newcomers packs. Sue said that the Bakewell group said no to reading the card in meetings, but that one meeting a month would cover the traditions. Ingrid stated that the Ashbourne group will put the card into newcomers packs and that they had had a theme meeting on anonymity which went very well. Geraldine and Jez (Derby, Wednesday) said they had mixed opinions and it went to a vote: they will read the card out every third Wednesday. Colleen said the Saturday Derby group were opposed to reading it at meetings but will put one in the newcomers packs. Heather said that Long Eaton Tues had read it at the beginning of one ,meeting but did not discussed it.

Heather said that this seemed to have been a useful exercise for the groups, and a positive response to GSO's suggestion to raise awareness.

3 - Treasurer's Report (Liz)

Liz had printed copies of the accounts available. The amount brought forward was £791.17. Two cheques from the last Intergroup have gone in, and total group contributions were: £1472.00, which then gave us a total of £2263.17. Various expenditures included: prison service; PI literature and travel; PO box renewal, and Intergroup hall hire: these totalled £525.85.

£250 was held in reserve for PI work, and £600 held as a prudent reserve, leaving a balance of £887.62. So it was agreed that £800 would be sent to Region.

The gratitude money collected was not included in the accounts as this is sent directly to GSO at York. Monies due to go out shortly include £234.99 for the where to find and telephone line, which is for 9 months: Jan 09 to end of Sept 09. We are also now due £78.30 for the last quarter.

Heather said that only £60 is left from the prisons budget and requested £50 for travel. Mac seconded it. The meeting agreed it.

It was queried if we need to keep £250 in reserve for PI - Geraldine stated she was using a lot of the free literature available, but may need to get some display boards for hospitals, and has bought a DVD. It was decided to keep this amount in hand in case of future PI need.

4 - Group Public Liability insurance - Tony

Tony attended the meeting: Treasurer for Notts & Leics Intergroup. A discussion was held re public liability insurance, in case of possible accidents and an increase in claims for compensation generally. He gave some examples of things that could happen:

Cakes baked in people's home for birthdays could result in food poisoning

Stacking tables at the end of a meeting could collapse on another person

Window left open in winter and pipes freeze.

He stated that in Notts/Leics they had found that a number of landlords held public liability insurance themselves; some wanted AA to have it. Tony found an insurer for Notts & Leics, costing £10 per group per year. If a group was

sued then liability could rest with the chair or GSR of the group, which could be off-putting to people willing to take on these service roles.

Each group should be autonomous: but should the public liability insurance be an Intergroup responsibility or an individual group responsibility? Tony stated that the most vulnerable groups were probably also the less likely to opt in, so in Notts & Leics they had decided to cover every group at Intergroup level, and not to ask for separate contributions from groups.

Heather said Intergroup started to look at this about year ago, and were going to opt in with Notts & Leics, but this didn't happen. The general feeling was that in Derbyshire it wasn't as common for landlords to ask for cover. Mac said he raised this matter some time ago, saying that as GSR he was concerned that if something happened he could have personal liability. Liz added it could stop people doing service and that at £10 per group it was an excellent idea.

Sue asked if the groups would have paperwork to show landlords as proof, because the Bakewell group had already had to take out public liability insurance, as it was a landlord requirement, and they hoped to be able to get a refund.

Liz asked if Derbys would take it out jointly with Notts & Leics or separately? Tony said he would recommend Liz ring for a quote and insure Derbyshire separately, as he has just recently renewed it for Notts & Leics. He said that if it was an inflated quote for fewer groups, we could talk again. But he thought that if above 20 groups, the rate is £10 per group.

Heather asked if we should make the decision now, or take it back to the groups. Mac proposed that Intergroup should decide, and a vote was taken to proceed. It was then voted on if we should take out public liability insurance and it was agreed, 8 votes to nil. Liz wanted to clarify if we were going to ask each group to pay £10, or if it would come out of Intergroup funds. A vote was taken, and it was agreed to pay out of Intergroup funds (8 votes to nil). Liz was authorised to go ahead and organise it.

Tony was thanked for coming to share the Notts/Leics experience.

ACTION FOR GSRs- INFORM GROUPS OF THIS DECISION

5 - PI AND REGION REPORTS, GERALDINE

Heather stated that Geraldine is the only rep for Region, and that Chas has volunteered to share the load . He was voted in as a Regional rep, proposed by Heather and seconded by Liz.

PI REPORT

On 28th May Jez and Geraldine attended a meeting with the Alcohol Strategy Team in Derby. They wanted to work alongside AA, but this is not possible as we cannot be affiliated with another organisation.

On 29th May they met with staff at Derby Royal Hospital which went well. They want them to visit on a regular basis, and they left them with plenty of literature.

Ben has helped a lot in delivering literature to shops, libraries, GP's, police, telephone kiosks, and yellow taxi cabs, etc. .

The Derby West Indian community assoc are interested in AA speaking at a youth weekend in November. Women's Work, a registered charity, invited AA to their AGM. Also the manager of Derbyshire Housing Aid would like to meet to discuss giving talks. DAAS Chesterfield will be referring clients to AA as counselling doesn't seem to be working for many of them.

The meeting commended the PI team on their efforts.

REGION REPORT

Regional Assembly Meeting: 7th June, 2009. The meeting began with a SHARE workshop, re production of the magazine and roles of those involved. There are currently vacant roles, and contributions are needed. Attendees were encouraged to take Share not just to their groups but into hospitals, prisons, surgeries, etc.

RE: questions for conference, the chair pointed out that no extra weight is given to questions from groups, Intergroups or Region as they are looked at without the committee being aware of their origin.

Regional Assembly meeting: 6th Sept 2009. Geraldine agreed to attend the Regional PI meeting in York on 16-17th Oct 09. Prag S informed that diaries and calendars are not yet available, and will advise ASAP. Phil H, TLO, advised that powerpoint download will be available soon for training for telephone responders.

Forthcoming events include: Mid Trent mini convention 19th Sept; Tipton convention 12th Dec; Cannock AA history day, date TBC. It was agreed that as regards observers speaking in Intergroup /region meetings; that they contribute only by permission of the Chair prior to the meeting.

6 - WEBSITE UPDATE/FEEDBACK FROM GROUPS TO QUESTIONS - NICK

Nick said that visits to the website have been constant. All pages now indexed via Google, and we can see the keywords used. Many people have used the Step 4 templates. 69% of hits are from search engines and the rest

are 50/50 from other sites and direct. There are 29 sites now linking to us, eg Derbys County Council.

Mac spoke re links; that he contacted libraries, councils, health authorities etc, to put links to AA on their websites, but a lot asked for a link back which we cannot do, as this is an affiliation. The more links a website has, the higher the Google ranking it gets, thus helping more people to find us.

Meeting postcodes are now on the website. Enquiries for help are increasing a little.

Heather asked if all info on the site, eg the Step 4 templates, are all AA approved. Mac said officially it isn't but that there is nothing controversial about it at all.

Feedback from groups

The questions asked were as follows:

- 1 - Would you like group officers to directly post content onto the website?
- 2 - Would you like a forum?
- 3 - Any other suggestions on how the website can improve.

Liz from Matlock gave the following feedback:

Q1: Group was very unsure of how this would work, too much freedom for junk mail? Nick said no, as it all has to be approved by him.

Q2: There is already a national forum, so we would just be duplicating that. Also would it be monitored? Concerns about vulnerable newcomers. Nick said everyone would have to register and their account would be

removed if they abuse it. Another concern was that it may be used as an alternative to getting to meetings.

Q3: where to find with postcodes, more info on availability of car parking and disabled access.

7 - TELEPHONE COMMITTEE 12 STEPPER FORMS - PETER

Peter, the telephone liaison officer for East Midlands, reported on some issues. A new service guideline (6) has come into place which states that the sobriety requirement for both telephone line responders and 12 steppers is 12 months. The guidelines also required every Intergroup to have a system for recruiting and maintaining telephone responders and 12 steppers, the telephone committee had discussed these requirements and come up with a new systems for notifying the committee of new responders/12 steppers and for verifying their suitability for the role.

The new method of recruitment of responders will involve groups sponsoring people into service. All groups will be circulated with a form to complete, on which responders and 12 steppers should be listed. The people listed by the group should be known at that group, be known by that group to have 12 months minimum continuous sobriety, and to be appropriate for the role. Existing telephone line responders and 12 steppers must be included on the group list as no-one will be automatically carried forward from the old system without sponsorship from a group. Each group will receive 2 forms, 1 to complete and send back to Peter in the stamped envelope provided, and 1 to keep for group records.

IT IS NOW THE GROUP'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SPONSOR
APPROPRIATE MEMBERS INTO TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Peter proposed that Intergroup agree that the telephone committee should consist of 4 people: 1 from Notts & Leics; 1 from Derbyshire and 1 from Mid-Trent, plus the TLO (currently Peter). Each member should be nominated by their Intergroup and will serve for 3 years. Committee roles are split between: contact with responders, region and GSO; maintenance of the 12 step list; and dealing with out of hours calls. He said that he had taken these proposals to Mid Trent the previous week and they had agreed them and agreed to provide a committee member, Notts/Leics had been consulted about the committee role in August and had agreed to the TLO handling all matters, with the committee.

The telephone committee is the East Midlands telephone committee and as such serves groups from the East Midlands Intergroups, which are designated by GSO as Notts/Leics, Derbys and Mid Trent. The committee has taken the database at York as confirmation of which groups fall into its remit, NOT which groups are listed on the Where to Find card. This is because the Where to Find card includes meetings from 6 different Intergroups, plus some meetings which do not belong to any Intergroup (there are 4 of these in the Derbyshire area). This means that people from these meetings will not be eligible to do telephone line service, unless they register the group with GSO as belonging to one of the 3 Intergroups, or ask a group which already belongs to sponsor them.

The telephone line should be funded by the 3 Intergroups.

Peter asked if Derbyshire Intergroup is happy to have a rep on the committee? The answer was yes. Heather currently fulfils this role, but asked if anyone else would like to do it as she was doing it because nobody else had volunteered. Peter said the role involves meeting up 4 times a year.

Peter has written a letter to all meetings with phone service information re the new guidelines and meetings sponsoring people into service. The new forms were distributed and GSRs agreed to take them to their groups, and also to cover other groups.

ACTION FOR GSRs- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL FORMS ARE COMPLETED BY GROUPS AND RETURNED ASAP TO PETER IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

8 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A) Region - Chas

There is a Regional Forum on October 4th at Sherwood community Centre, Nottingham at 10.00am. 3 members of the General Service Board (GSB) will be there: for prisons, health and Midland Share. Also 2 reps from permanent GSO staff, giving a presentation on what they do. There will be workshops re prisons and health with opportunities to ask questions. This is a worthwhile day, and only takes place once every 3-4 years.

ACTION FOR GSRs- TAKE FLYERS TO MEETINGS AND PUBLICISE EVENT (Flyers available on the Derbys website)

B) Mini-Convention - Dean

Dean is to take over as new convention convenor. It is run jointly between Notts & Leics and Derbyshire Intergroups. The committee has 2 members from each Intergroup, and has been selected. It is on the first Sunday in March, and will follow the usual format. Flyers will be out in January and info put on the website.

NEXT INTERGROUP MEETING: 3pm 5th DECEMBER

Flamsteed Centre, Ilkeston.

