

1.

“Continental Europe Region (CER) is an integral and thriving part of our service structure, to the extent that many key service roles in Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain (AAGB) are being fulfilled by members based outside of Britain. Even more English-speaking groups across Europe might be attracted to take part in AAGB, and hence better carry the message to more English-speaking alcoholics, if they could better see us as a fully Europe-wide fellowship. Has the time come for us, in co-operation with other European AA service groups, to look for a more informative, more accurate, more inclusive, name than “AA Great Britain”?

Terms of Reference No. 6 and 10

Committee established that there was a lack of background information pertinent to the question.

2.

Can Conference discuss Region Reps having access to the Confidential Directory?

Terms of Reference No 9

Committee established that, under autonomy, each region can share their own contact details if they choose and that the information is already available through their own Intergroup secretaries.

4.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA-Share Magazine.

“Would Conference consider the benefits of encouraging young people to write articles or life stories for Share Magazine by creating a specific section for YP in this publication.

Currently YP do not read ‘Share’ as there is little or no identification. Although YP tend to read on line YPLO’s believe a specific YP section may encourage participation.”

This would entail no additional cost other than a new page heading and a little advertising to create an initial portfolio of articles. The use of AA related sketches may also be useful.”

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to Young Peoples Sub Committee.

6.

When is GSO going to create and implement a policy to safeguard vulnerable adults in our fellowship?

Terms of Reference No. 12

A policy has already been issued by GSO.

7.

Having the words ‘Women’s Meeting’, ‘LGBT Meeting’ or other similar words in a meeting’s name gives an indication that AA members outside the said criterion will not be admitted to these AA meetings. Would GSO take any steps to rectify this situation, which sends out a clear message that all AA members are welcome to attend regardless?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Already covered by AA approved literature – Traditions 3 and 9.

8.

Would Conference consider including Intergroup Region Representative's contact details in the Confidential Directory?

Terms of Reference No. 9

Under autonomy, each region can share their contact details if they choose and that the information is already available through their own Intergroup secretaries.

9.

Would Conference consider The Role of the Archivist in relation to expenses incurred when fulfilling this valuable service commitment?

Terms of Reference No. 9

Already covered by AA approved literature – page 73 of the Structure Handbok, last bullet point.

10.

Would the fellowship discuss and make recommendations/guidelines on how much involvement at all levels to bestow upon convicted paedophiles/sex offenders?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered by the newly issued safeguarding policy and page 83 of the Structure Handbook (violence and personal conduct).

11.

Does the fellowship feel we are doing enough to protect newcomer and their families from convicted paedophiles/sex offenders?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered by the newly issued safeguarding policy and page 83 of the Structure Handbook (violence and personal conduct).

13.

I would like to suggest a Question For Conference regarding the growth of AA in the UK in the 21st Century:

1) Comparing the results of the 2002 and 2015 membership surveys it would appear that the number of young people who identify themselves as members of AA has not increased at all over that period.

Do we need a fresh approach since our previous initiatives have not yielded any results?

My local Intergroup facilitates School Talks to local schools and I have participated in them myself. This has greatly benefitted my sobriety but in the 18 years that I have attended AA meetings in Torbay NOT ONE SINGLE NEW MEMBER has attended as the direct result of those school talks.

2) The 2002/2015 surveys show an overall increase in membership of AA from 22,500 to 33,500 in that period.

Is this a healthy growth rate?

Should we be encouraged by these figures or again do we need a fresh approach?

3) In 2016 the media presenter Louis Theroux made a documentary on alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous was not significantly presented in it.

A few references were made to AA but only in regard to it not working for the alcoholics being interviewed.

Why is the representation of AA in the British media still so poor?

At best AA meetings are only ever dramatised on television as being full of contrite down-and-outs getting rounds of applause. Nothing of the warmth and humour that I find in AA is ever shown.

Terms of Reference No. 5

Discussed by Committee 5, Question 2 in 2017.

14.

Should the 'Think Think THINK' sign be removed from the pack of 6 slogans which are sold for display at AA meetings?

Terms of Reference No. 9

Group autonomy (Tradition 4).

15.

Would Conference consider adding the service position of Group Greeter to the list of Group Officers in the AA Structure Handbook for GB and in 'The AA Group' pamphlet?

Terms of Reference 7 and 9

Covered in Structure Handbook (page 77) and group autonomy (Tradition 4).

17.

Would Conference give the go-ahead to the GSB & PI and Literature Committees to overhaul the external facing AA 'brand' image and message, in all our communication materials to professionals and the general public? Dedicating funds and expertise as required.

Terms of Reference No. 3

Similar question put on agenda, whilst maintaining the essence of this question.

18.

a) Would the Conference discuss and share experience on which version of the serenity prayer is used by groups when said aloud at the beginning and/or end of meetings?

The singular form, 'God, grant me the serenity...', as described for personal use in Step Three and printed on the table top card seems to be in most common use. However the plural form, 'God, grant us the serenity...' as described for general use in Step Twelve appears more frequently in our literature and places more emphasis on the unity of the fellowship.

b) Would the Conference consider whether it would be helpful to emphasise the principle of unity within our fellowship by printing a tabletop card with the plural form of the serenity prayer?

Terms of Reference 9 and 11

Tradition 4 and that it may be contrary to the Traditions as it is not our primary purpose.

19.

Would Conference review the recently approved document “AA in Treatment Settings- How We Can Help” with specific reference to:

Terms of Reference No. 5

Wording has been accepted at Conference within the last three years.

20.

Would Conference discuss and make recommendations for an addition to the appropriate guidelines to enable voting members at regional and intergroup assemblies the recourse to an anonymous or paper ballot whenever they feel intimidated by personalities who may dominate the assembly.

Terms of Reference No. 9

Covered in Structure Handbook, page 107, article 7, and maintains group autonomy (Tradition 4).

21.

Could conference share its experience regarding carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic within the ethnic communities whose attendance at meeting is very limited even though the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Could conference explore ways to improve this?

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to Literature Sub-committee.

22.

Would Conference consider creating the post of an LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Equality and Diversity Liaison Officer at Intergroup and Region level to help attract the minorities?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Adequately covered in Traditions 3 and 5.

23.

Would the Fellowship consider what more can be done to enable members to be of service on subcommittees and the General Service Board, given that most of the meetings take place in York on a Friday afternoon continuing to the Saturday morning?

Terms of Reference No. 8

Passed to the General Service Board

24.

This question is about the auditing of Intergroup Accounts by someone outside of the Fellowship.

Please could Conference share experience and discuss the practice of Intergroup Treasury Records being audited outside of the Fellowship.

Please could the Handbooks recommendation/guidance on this matter be reviewed.

Terms of Reference No. 7 and 9

Autonomy (Tradition 4) and is also in the Structure Handbook, page 90.

25.

Could we ask Conference to clarify the status of AA meetings in Prisons.

- 1. Are prison AA meetings registered as meetings and if not why not.**
- 2. If they are not registered with GSO do they need to be insured separately,**
- 3. Who is responsible for public liability insurance cover for these meetings.**

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to the Prisons Sub Committee.

26.

Will Conference/the fellowship consider how best to manage this issue, i.e. that all those who come into the fellowship with an alcohol problem, as well as other addictions, are made to feel welcome and that we strive to practise our primary purpose.

Terms of Reference No. 5

Covered in the last three years, Conference 2017, Committee 4 (Q2).

27.

Will Conference/the fellowship consider how best to encourage young members to engage fully in recovery in these changing times?

Terms of Reference No. 3

Committee chose another question which addresses this subject, which is clearly of importance to the Fellowship.

28.

Will Conference/the fellowship consider how best to safeguard 'the pot'? What is best practise?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Adequately addressed in existing literature, particularly pp. 79 & 90 of the Structure Handbook and the pamphlet "The Pot".

29.

While AA has no opinion on outside issues, attitudes in society towards personal behaviour have changed considerably in recent times.

Would Conference discuss and make recommendations for a comprehensive review of the Personal Conduct section in the AA Structure Handbook?

In doing so would Conference address the following questions?

- (a) Does it go far enough to assure problem drinkers and professionals that AA is safe, and that the fellowship takes seriously the Safeguarding of vulnerable people?**
- (b) People working in the public services, private companies, the Church and voluntary organisations, have safeguarding policies. When they come into contact with AA, they ask what is ours.**
- (c) Ought there to be a more clearly defined and specific 'safeguarding structure'?**

Terms of Reference No. 3

Chose another question which addresses this subject, which is clearly of importance to the Fellowship.

30.

Would Conference discuss and share its experience on the procedure for planning and organising service workshops? Should all service workshops secure prior approval from group conscience meetings or intergroup / regional assemblies so that the workshop becomes 'official'? Can only 'official' service workshops qualify for AA funding, access to AA meetings with flyers and/or publicity announcements and, where appropriate, inclusion in the intergroup / regional workshop calendar?

Terms of Reference No. 7 and 9

Autonomy of individual Groups, Intergroups and Regions is paramount. Literature cited in the Background currently offers adequate broad guidance.

32.

Would Conference consider adding a paragraph about the origins of the yellow card and its purpose to the pamphlet *Understanding Anonymity*?

Terms of Reference No. 7 and 9

Existing literature provides a number of alternatives to the "Yellow Card" (Anonymity Tent Card, What Does Anonymity Mean To AA". Furthermore, Tradition 11 provides guidance for autonomous Groups, Intergroups and Regions to address this through the conscience of those they serve.

33.

- 1. Would Conference consider whether underage drinkers/Minors should be allowed within the meeting rooms and conventions and ask for recommendations on how Groups should address issues of safeguarding minors.**
- 2. Would Conference consider whether the Guidelines January 2013 – 12 Stepping and Sponsoring of Minors need updating with additional guidance on attendance of minors at meetings.**
- 3. Would Conference discuss and make recommendations on Twelfth Stepping Minors/underage drinkers and for those recommendations to be included in The AA Service Handbook GB 2017 Chapter 10 AA Telephone Services 10:3 Telephone Service and Twelfth Step Work.**

Terms of Reference No. 11

Not in the spirit of Tradition 3. The recent Safeguarding document circulated by GSO addresses some of the concerns.

34.

Could the Fellowship consider adding to the literature special Items roll up banners (Pop up banners, floor mounted) for AA group meetings that are unable to hang up the AA Step & Traditions banners to walls etc safely? They are not expensive at around £30 each.

Terms of Reference No. 8

Forwarded to the Literature Committee, who could commission this format without Conference approve, since the text would remain unchanged.

36.

Do we still have a way out on which we can agree?

Terms of Reference No. 9 This is a matter for individual Groups, Intergroups and Regions to address where necessary and respects their autonomy in so doing.

37.

In which ways can we create more unity to attract newcomers?

Terms of Reference No. 5 Well explored within the last three years, at Conference 2017, by Committee 5 (Q1).

38.

Has the General Service Board (GSB) been living up to its stated aims?

Terms of Reference No. 6,10,12 The Full report delivered by the GSB to Conference addresses this issue every year.

39.

Would Conference discuss whether it's time AA Great Britain adopted the process followed by AA in America for electing Conference Delegates, that is, Conference Delegates are elected not merely by a quorum of the Regional Assembly (Area Assembly in the US) officers, but by a quorum which also includes all GSRs in that Region.

Terms of Reference No. 7, 9 Autonomy of Regions in selecting their delegates is paramount. Furthermore, the Process map approved by Conference 2018 explains responsibility of the GSR.

40.

Does Conference believe that AA in 2017, is still true to the original vision of the founders?

Terms of Reference No. 5 Well explored within the last three years, at Conference 2018, by Committee 5 (Q1)

41.

Due to the recent decline in AA Membership, is AA still carrying the message of recovery effectively, i.e. sharing experience, strength and hope, offering sponsorship, talking about the twelve steps and twelve traditions. Can conference share its experience on how AA can do this more effectively?

Terms of Reference No. 5 Well explored within the last three years, at Conference 2017, by Committee 4 (Q1).

42.

Would Conference discuss how AA Great Britain can co-operate and learn from the experience of AA in America, in particular with regards to the way GSO New York helps groups work with outside agencies at local levels there, and the way in which it conducts AA's overall public relations in America.

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to GSB for a World Service delegate to respond more clearly.

43.

Survey Question

Part 1: Will conference consider allowing/ asking all intergroups to conduct the next survey? Then report back to region and region report back to GSO.

Part 2: Will conference consider increasing the frequency of the conduction of the Survey to every 3 years to coincide with the USA

Part 3: Will conference consider adding the following question to the survey:

1. How many years has your Home Group be running. 1yr – 5yrs, 5yrs – 10yrs, 10yrs – 15yrs, 15-20yrs, 20yrs +

2. Size of Home Group i.e. how many members

3. How many members are over 1 yr.5yrs, 10yrs, 15yr, 20yrs Sober

4. Does your Home Group display the Steps, Traditions and Concepts at its meetings?

5. Does your Home Group Offer Newcomers Sponsorship?

6. Is your Home Group Active in service at Group, intergroup, region and conference ie Delegate/ Subcommittee?

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to Survey Sub Committee.

44.

Is your Home Group active in PI in your local community?

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to Survey Sub Committee.

45.

What can we do as a fellowship to show newcomers and the public at large that we are not stupid, boring and glum?

Terms of Reference No. 10

The Committee doesn't feel that the public perception of AA is negative

46.

Would Conference consider asking the board to place a disclaimer on our national website, to state that we are not affiliated with any other AA websites?

Terms of Reference No. 11

Covered in the Pledge as well as in Tradition 10.

47.

Would conference please discuss replacing Bill's essay on leadership (Leadership – Ever a vital need) to Concept 9 in our AA structure Handbook.

Terms of Reference No. 10

The Committee feels that the premise is false. It is referenced.

48.

Do conference believe that the way Questions for Conference are written and undertaken is the best way to approach it?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is covered in the Question for Conference pamphlet and Committee 4 Recommendation 2, Conference 2016 as well as in the literature: 'General Service Conference - The Conscience of AA' (order no. 4033)

49.

a. What does the fellowship feel that Conference and Regions can do to foster confidence in the grass roots membership for the Conference process?

b. What does the Fellowship want from Conference?

Delegates to gather experience from around the country, collate, discuss and make recommendations.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered in Delegates New Guidelines

50.

Would Conference discuss, consider and make recommendations to further update the section on 'The Group, sub-section 5: Violence and Personal Conduct' on pp.82-85 of the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, to include and make specific reference to the internet? In particular, to include, under the sub-heading 'About Behaviour', suggestions about members' behaviour:

a. when using AA's own online facilities and services; and

b. when contributing to, posting on, or using other non-AA internet sites to share their experience or make comments about AA.

Terms of Reference No. 7

a) Adequately covered in AA literature and in Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety and b) This is an outside issue

52.

Would Conference discuss, consider and make recommendations on how the General Service Board, Trustees and NATs could work with the press, radio and television at the national level to increase public awareness of AA and so make better use of the media to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic?

"Awareness" ought to include:

* not only awareness of AA as an organisation and how to get in touch,
but also

* awareness that AA offers a solution to alcoholism for those who need and want it

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to PI Sub Committee. This is being addressed.

54.

Would Conference consider the results of the latest survey of AA in Great Britain and form a view on whether the Fellowship is growing or declining?

Terms of Reference No. 5

Covered by Committee 5 question 2 at Conference 2017

55.

Would Conference provide guidance on how online AA meetings should monitor and check inappropriate behavior?

Terms of Reference No. 7 & 9

Covered by AA literature. Online groups have autonomy.
Responsibility of sponsors

56.

Would conference please share their experiences on how to deal with the ever increasing vacancies at Intergroups and Regions and are we meeting the founders vision for the fellowship

Terms of Reference No. 5

Covered by Committee 5, Question 1a at Conference 2018

57.

Would the Conference discuss whether the Board should develop and submit a 5-year active plan for Public Information?

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to General Service Board

58.

Would Conference discuss the wording of a possible "declaration of fellowship", to take its place with our "declaration of unity" and our "responsibility pledge"?

Terms of Reference 7 and 9

All of the concerns brought forward regarding fellowship are already covered in AA literature and guidelines.

59.

Would conference make recommendations to new groups wanting a solution based format.

Terms of Reference No. 7 & 9

Covered in the Big Book, Chapter 2.

60.

Could the Conference consider updating the pamphlet 'AA for the Woman' to address some of the barriers women face when seeking help from AA?

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to the Literature Sub Committee

61.

AUTOMATED TELEPHONE RECEPTION SERVICES

As ever more Regions introduce external telephone call-handling services to answer their helplines, e.g. *Switchboard Free; BT Cloud Voice* etc.

Would Conference consider the following:

Inappropriate music while leaving callers 'On Hold'

What is the effect on the Suffering Alcoholic (or Friends & Family) of lengthy waiting times listening to inappropriate 'On Hold' music and "Your call is important to us" messages, and how this affects the reputation and credibility of our fellowship? Particularly when statistics show that some areas using these systems have a higher than average number of ineffective calls. Would Conference make recommendations on acceptable waiting times, on-hold music and automated messages, where appropriate.

Confidentiality

Furthermore, if incoming telephone numbers of those seeking help, and the Private numbers of those providing it, are now processed by commercial organisations, the issue of confidentiality on a National level arises. Would Conference then consider whether any references to a 'confidential' service, should be removed from ALL posters, literature and the national website, since this will be disingenuous if external providers are used to administer call distribution. We cannot be a: "Confidential Service... *but only in parts*". Would Conference make recommendations where appropriate?

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to the Telephone Sub Committee

63.

Would Conference consider adding a search function that makes finding Child Friendly meetings a possibility via the AA Website.

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to the Electronic Communications Committee

64.

Would Conference discuss, share experience and give guidance on the upholding of Tradition 11 in connection with Public Information activity both locally and nationally. Could there be more clarification as to where attraction tips over into promotion?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered in Chapters 1 & 7 of the Service Handbook and the Traditions

66.

Would conference discuss the possibility of using any excess money after our financial year end when we have monies above our prudent reserve to be used on National Publicity advertising or Radio campaigns by GSB or the PISC?

Terms of Reference 10

Referred to PI Sub Committee for explanation of ongoing projects

67.

Would the Fellowship consider whether it is possible, or even desirable, that groups of alcoholics with specific requirements, such as Women, LGBTQ, or those with English as a second language, should be allowed to have separate meetings at conventions throughout the UK, whilst firmly remaining part of AA as a whole?

Terms of Reference No. 9

Conference can only advise on national conventions. All others are autonomous