

**Review Service Sponsorship language for Section One, *Service Handbook*, pp. 7-10
(Conference 2021 – C4, Q2)**

Background

Revision of Service Sponsorship language for Section One, *Service Handbook*.

AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Section 1

- new Section 1.5
- re-numbered Sections 1.6 - 1.11

Proposal:

Service Handbook, re-name Section 1, 'Growing into Service' to 'AA Service' (to avoid confusion with the new 'Growing into Service' pamphlet).

Change reference to 'Growing into Service' pamphlet to denote that the text comes from a previous version of the pamphlet than the one now in print – or delete reference altogether. Insert new section 1.5, 'Sponsorship, Service Sponsorship, and Sponsoring into Service' (after section 1.4, 'Service to newcomers at group meetings').

Re-number subsequent sections as follows:

- 1.6, 'A step further'
- 1.7, 'Service within the intergroup'
- 1.8, 'Still more ways to serve'
- 1.9, 'The loner'
- 1.10, 'The housebound member'
- 1.11, 'The older member'

New Section 1.5 Proposed Text:

Sponsorship, Service Sponsorship, and Sponsoring into Service (from the pamphlet 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered')

Essentially, sponsorship is one alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery programme sharing that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is trying to stay sober.

Most present members of AA owe their sobriety to the fact that someone took a special interest in them in their early days and was willing to share a great gift with them.

Sponsorship can be the answer for the person who has been able to achieve only interludes of sobriety. Even if we have many years in AA, we can benefit by asking somebody to be our sponsor.

In addition to sponsorship in the AA programme (e.g., helping someone through the Steps and Traditions), it is suggested that new members are also 'sponsored' into service.

Some AA Members may seek a 'service sponsor' who has experience in a particular type of service or role.

Although there is no formal definition of service sponsorship or of sponsoring into service, the two may be understood in similar terms. (Some AA members say that service sponsorship is not separate, but simply a part of sponsorship.)

Service sponsorship focuses on AA's Third Legacy of Service. The service sponsor shares experience, strength, and hope about service roles and positions within the AAGB service structure. A member may take on (or be elected or appointed to take on) such responsibilities within the group or in the levels further down our inverted triangle – that is, at intergroup and region levels.

A service sponsor supports and encourages the member in all service activities – regardless of level – and leads by example. The service sponsor may suggest opportunities a member might consider in the group or beyond and can help the member gain a deeper understanding of AA's Traditions and Concepts.

Service sponsors can also help a member understand the commitment and responsibilities of a service position and determine whether they have the time available and are sufficiently far enough along in their sobriety to meet the obligations of the role.

*Please see also the AAGB pamphlets, 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered' and 'Growing into Service'.