

Conference 2024

Proposed text for the leaflet 'A Guide for the Health Liaison Officer'. An internal AA facing leaflet.

The Health Sub Committee have requested that the picture 'the man on the bed' is used in the revised publication, otherwise **the text only is set out.**

If approved by Conference, the text will be formatted into a leaflet which follows the new AA 'Family Guidelines', with input from the Health Sub Committee

Text is for the leaflet is as follows:

A Guide for the Health Liaison Officer

Insert picture of "the man on the bed".

As Health Liaison Officers (HLOs)

You can **make** a difference

You **do** make a difference

You can **see** the difference you make

How Can I Get Support?

- Familiarise yourself with the section describing the role of Health Liaison Officer (HLO) in the Service Handbook of AAGB, and the HLO resources on the AAGB website
- Have an understanding of 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts
- Speak to the outgoing HLO or someone with experience as HLO
- Attend your intergroup. If there is a public information committee, join it. Otherwise, create one
- Your region HLO or Health Sub Committee can provide you with invaluable support, experience and encouragement

I am Responsible

When anyone, anywhere,

Reaches out for help,

I want the hand of AA always to be there.

And for that: I am responsible.

What is the role of the Health Liaison Officer?

Intergroup

Intergroup HLOs are responsible for establishing links with healthcare professionals, and coordinating all aspects of carrying the message within the health care system.

Region

Regional HLOs aim to promote communication between neighbouring intergroups, thus implementing our Tradition of Unity, and creating service boards or committees where needed. They too can establish links with healthcare professionals.

Health Sub Committee

The health sub-committee is responsible for

- implementing initiatives as directed by the General Service Board / Conference
- providing support to intergroups and regional HLOs
- carrying the AA message to all health-related environments as appropriate

Regular reporting is an effective way of communicating activity and ideas between intergroup, region and the subcommittee.

Ideas for health activity

The list of activities is not intended to be exhaustive but following are some thoughts on how to move towards achieving our primary purpose:

- Provide stands at local events
- Invite/accompany professionals to AA open meetings
- Give talks to groups of professionals
- Develop contact with medical training facilities with the objective of including open working workshops in their curriculum, and investigating opportunities to help with staff/student training
- Work with hospitals/treatment centres for problem drinkers
- Look for opportunities to display AA literature in medical establishments, asking permission first
- Find out if there is a Liver Specialist Nurse Practitioner at the local hospital and make contact to see what help they may require
- If there is no AA meeting at the hospital, look into the possibility of starting one up

Other contacts you may wish to consider

Include alcohol forums, alcohol support services, alcohol and drug partnership in Scotland, social work departments, rehabilitation and substance misuse teams, mental health charities and various other alcohol awareness projects, home detoxification services, clinics, dentists, community health centres/projects and pharmacists.

Many educational establishments that deal with health education would appreciate talks from AA members to their students. These include universities, schools of medicine, nursing, paramedic practices, health scientists, colleges with health and social care departments or those that run counselling courses, local health initiatives run by integrated care systems and GP vocational training programmes.

Don't forget, there is real benefit from working alongside other AA liaison officers in carrying the message.

For more information visit the AAGB website alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk, or contact AA at

Alcoholics Anonymous
PO Box 1
10, Toft Green
York
YO1 7NJ

01904 644026

National helpline 0800 9177650

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