

# Midlands Region Assembly DRAFT Minutes



Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026, 10:30am

The Derby Conference Centre, London Road, Derby, DE24 8UX

## 1. Silence, Welcome, Preamble, Primary Purpose Statement and Traditions

- Preamble – was said by all
- Primary Purpose – read by Felicity
- Traditions – read by Lorna W

## 2. Introductions and Apologies - Attendance Sheet completion

Apologies – Debbie B, Sue C, Louise S, Tom McD

Name	Intergroup / Region	Region Position / Visitor
Andy P	Birmingham IG	Region Telephone Liaison Officer (RTLO), Conference Delegate
Caroline G	Birmingham IG	Region Public Information Liaison Officer (PILO)
Jemma R	Birmingham IG	Region Rep
Gloria L	Black Country and Wyre Forest IG	Region Rep
Lorna W	Black Country and Wyre Forest IG	Region Rep
Patricia C	Coventry / Warwick IG	Conference Delegate
Chris O	Coventry / Warwick IG	Region Rep
Debbie S	Derbyshire IG	Region Rep
Carly G	Derbyshire IG	Region Rep
Ian C	Northamptonshire IG	RECLO, Conference Delegate
Paul C	Northamptonshire IG	Region Archivist
Pete W	Northamptonshire IG	Region Rep
Helen C	Notts Leicester IG	Region Treasurer
Felicity W	Notts Leicester IG	Region Chair, NNCC (Vice-Chair)
Rebecca P	Notts Leicester IG	Region Young Persons
Gareth L	Notts Leicester IG	Region Rep
Matt G	Notts Leicester IG	Visitor
Sam A	Notts Leicester IG	Region Rep
Andy C	Notts Leicester IG	Visitor

Alex McK	Potteries & District IG	Region Vice-Chair, Conference Delegate
Richard T	Potteries & District IG	Region Secretary, Conference Delegate
Marcus L	Potteries & District IG	Region Armed Services (RASLO)
Jane K	Potteries & District IG	Region Probation
Jeff A	Potteries & District IG	Region Rep, Alt Conference Delegate
Trev A	Potteries & District IG	Region Prisons
Max J	Potteries & District IG	Region Trustee
Kim S	North West Region – Health Sub Committee	Visitor

27 in attendance, 22 voters.

### 3. Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 meeting and matters arising

Proposed by Chris, seconded by Patricia

### 4. Feedback from Conference – Reports

- **Committee 1 – Alex**

#### Question 1. Preamble change

The Committee decided to change the Preamble from ‘a fellowship of men and women’ to ‘a fellowship of people’.

We discussed this question for more than half of our allocated committee time, and I strongly argued against this change. All of the Delegates gave their Regions responses and we took a straw poll to see where we stood. The majority of the Committee were for leaving the Preamble as it is. After 2 further sessions of discussion, the committee could not agree on an answer to the question. We had 4 Board Members on the Committee and they were all vocal and wanted to change the Preamble. I feel that a number of the Delegates were unduly influenced by the Board members during the discussions in the Committee. A few of the Delegates changed their minds and when a vote was taken it was 12 for change(including the 4 Board Members), 5 to leave it as is, and 3 abstentions.

The change was presented to the Plenary and it passed with a simple majority. If it had passed with a two thirds majority this would have meant it was a mandate to the board to implement the change. As it was a simple majority it is not a mandate to the board, but the board must consider it and decide if the change will be made.

During the plenary I voiced my concern that I felt the Committee was unduly influenced by the 4 Board members on the Committee. Also that having 4 Board member on Committee 1 was more than other Committees. The General Secretary said that they try to ensure that the Board members allocated to each Committee was equal and fair. However, I subsequently checked and of the 6 Committees, Committee 1 had 4 Board members, Committees 2,3 and 4 had 3 Board Members, and Committees 5 and 6 only had 2 Board members.

#### Question 2. Finances – Recommend how Groups could increase their Tradition 7 contributions.

The Committee offered a long list of recommendations for Groups on how to increase their Tradition seven contributions. Including the following suggested statement that could be read out at meetings.

Contributions cover our local running costs. Any surplus is forwarded to our local Intergroup to support the wider AA structure to reach the alcoholic who still suffers. We suggest a contribution similar to the price of a cup of coffee – whatever that means to you. Please do not worry if you cannot give today, we are simply glad that you are here.

The Committee also made a number of recommendations for Intergroups and Regions, and the GSB. These covered things such as explaining what the T7 surplus is spent on going down the structure, and continued clarity and transparency in financial reports. Asking Regions to provide practical advice and information for groups on how to set up alternative digital forms of payment. Asking GSB to revise the Structure Handbook to explain how to be a treasurer – setting a prudent reserve, and moving money down the structure on a regular basis, and revise Section 4 on Group Money. Also recommended that GSB continue to give clear quarterly reports, review our expenditure and address the Warranty 2 deficit.

There were many other recommendations, but too many to list here.

Question 3. Literature amendments – Service Handbook Chapter 7 – AA in Prisons

The CWIG/Prison team suggested 2 changes which I raised.

1. The Committee decided that there was no need for any further guidance on the word 'gender' here.
2. The Committee decided that the sentence beginning with “**wherever possible** you should not go into a prison alone.....” provided adequate room for discretion by members.

This was my last Conference and another very enjoyable one. Every Conference I have attended was an honour, very inspiring and very tiring. It is absolutely great to see all the weird, wonderful and different characters in AA coming together and working together to make sure the whole Fellowship has a voice and its views and opinions are heard. If you ever have the opportunity to be selected as a Region Delegate, I highly recommend it to you.

## DISCUSSION

**Paul C advised that the previous Conference in 2022 had decided against changing the Preamble by a majority vote.**

**Max advised that the Board had decided to change the Preamble wording driven by inclusivity considerations.**

**Midlands Region voted as to whether it would retain the existing Preamble or change to the new wording. The voting was 11 for no change, 9 to change, 1 abstention.**

- **Committee 2 – Ian**

This was my third and final year of attending Conference as a region delegate for Midlands Region.

After being called on at short notice in my second year to be committee secretary, which I found quite challenging, this year's bigger challenge was to chair Committee 2 after our elected chair had to call off due to illness.

The whole experience was both terrifying and fulfilling, and I suppose mirrors my various service roles in AA. Saying “yes” and then wondering what I’d let myself in for, only to find the rewards of carrying out service vastly outweighed any nerves I had beforehand.

Although this was my third and last year of attending Conference as a delegate, my work continues until Conference 2027. This has to be stressed, especially in light of the second question Committee 2 considered (see the attached response)

As a Conference delegate, it is my responsibility to be available, if invited, to intergroups and groups within the region, until Conference 2027, to explain Conference procedure, outcomes and submission of questions.

I would like to thank Midlands Region for their trust in me to be a Conference delegate on your behalf, and I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to attend Conference in the future to go for it. Any past and present delegates would be happy to answer questions or concerns you may have before applying.

I have attached Committee 2 responses to our questions. Both were unanimously agreed by the committee and approved by a substantial majority by Conference.

Ian.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Jemma advised that Birmingham Intergroup are starting a Young People’s Group**

- **Committee 3 – Patricia**

This was my second year at the AA annual conference, which was our sixtieth one. It was my first year as Conference Delegate, I attended last year as an Alternate Conference Delegate. The decided theme of the conference is the title of this report.

As we remain on the same committee every year, I imagined that I would see more or less the same people, in fact only a third remained.

This year my committee experience was very different from the last one.

The committee is composed of conference delegates representing their areas, trustees and GSO staff members. A chair and secretary are elected from last years committee members. Question: 3.1.

Does Conference believe that the fellowship is doing enough to help and support older alcoholics in finding our Fellowship and finding recovery? Would conference consider what more could be done to make our Fellowship more accessible to older people with serious alcohol related issues?

I am not going to write out the answer, that has already been done and voted on at conference.

My report is about the mechanism of being on a committee and achieving answers to questions.

At the beginning, we introduce ourselves individually as we go around the table. There is a tension in the air, as we don't know each other and there is a protracted period of hard work ahead of us. As we begin to dissect and suggest factors within an answer, there emerges one person amongst us who continues to break in with negative and critical comments about the Fellowship and the General Service Board.

Committee members suggested that these comments were not helpful in answering the question. Despite this, the person had found an audience and most definitely would not be silenced. We continued to work through to achieve an answer.

There were three aspects of the answering of the question that emerged for me and these were:

1. A reluctance to accept the latter part of the question 'serious alcohol related issues'.
2. An inability to feel relaxed about the obvious overlap of health liaison and public information demarcation of work in this area.
3. The persistence of male members in repeating my answers and being given the credit for them.

Question 2.

Would conference consider and share their experience of how the fellowship can improve its understanding and application of the 12 Concepts within Service.

We were pleased that we had answered the first question and were happy that we still had adequate time left to do so. Time is a major factor in this work as we are restrained by it, the tension mounts if we get stranded on a particular point. This will always happen on some points in the process of achieving an answer.

I notice that the agitator in our group now has an unexpected ally. This begins to change the dynamic of the group. It also makes it rather more complex to achieve an answer to something that a large section of the Fellowship are largely ignorant of. Hence the possible reason for the question.

The most vocal member of the committee decided to re-validate her anger. This hit her target as the Ally re-launched his anger. I did suggest restraint on the personal nature of having a board members 'head on a platter'.

This seemed to diffuse things a little, by this time we needed some 'light relief'.

Apart from the distractions we did manage to answer the question, voting on our answers as we progressed.

Lastly, when all of us assembled for the Open Forum question and answer session (which is not recorded in any minutes), thing became clearer. Our Committee three agitator, who now had more allies, was part of a sustained campaign by an Intergroup in the North West. Their often-repeated phrase was a perversion of the Bill Wilson quote about 'Power of the purse'. Her aim was to get discontent recorded, we were voting as a committee to the last moment, in the hall of the final vote. She did get a sentence, with her allies voting power, in the final answers. This was truth, simply because we did have extensive discussion.

Patricia

- **Committee 4 – Andy**

As you can see from the title this was my 2<sup>nd</sup> year at conference representing Region. A somewhat different feeling this year to that of my RED DOT first year. Last year was full of anticipation, fear of the unknown etc. That proved to be unjustified but that's the way I am when dealing with most things for the first time. This year I felt settled in from the very start. It was good to have Patricia and Alex in the car on the way up to chew the fat about the whole conference experience of both last year and the year to come. The journey both to and from conference seemed to pass with the blink of an eye.

The hotel was comfortable and the food plentiful as ever! Again it was good to get to York early to settle in and to have dinner on the Thursday evening as a Region. Down to business!

Safeguarding was our topic and the group found this a difficult topic with a spread of opinions both for and against SAFEGUARDING full stop. From pretty much all Regions. I found myself floating to being in favour and against on most of the time we were deliberating, and to be fair that was borne out by our own region feedback.

### **Question 1**

We suggested setting up a working group to create a pamphlet being a condensed version of The Group Sections 5–8 of the Structure Handbook.

To promote and encourage the following activities:

1. Groups to take regular Inventories
2. Run group workshops at Intergroup level.
3. Run Traditions workshops at Intergroup level.

Much deliberation by conference delegates who eventually passed this on a simple majority i.e., more than 50%. This means that the board will meet and decide whether Conference adopts this motion. VOTE was 54 out of approximately 100.

There was some suggestion of amending an existing pamphlet rather than producing a whole new one.

### **Question 2**

As a committee we agreed that we did not have enough experience through our Regions to create a definitive role description and suggested pushing this back to the working group suggested in Q1. VOTE 68/100 approximately so passed.

So the Safeguarding topic remains unsettled after conference with the Board now having the final say. The split vote situation now sums up the difficulty as to whether or not the term SAFEGUARDING should be present in Fellowship matters.

Thanks again to Midlands Region the privilege of being part of the Conference procedure.

Andy P.

- **Committee 5 – Jeff**

### **The Experience of the General Service Conference**

I recently had the chance to attend the General Service Conference as an alternate delegate, stepping in at short notice. As a “Red Dotter” (which just means it was my first

Conference), I found the whole thing fascinating, eye-opening, and at times quite thought-provoking.

The Conference is often described as the “actual voice and effective conscience for our whole Society,” and seeing that in action really made me feel what it means to be part of the Fellowship.

At one point, someone said, “this is where AA comes together,” and that really stuck with me. It summed up how the Conference carries on the work of the founders in looking after the Three Legacies. There was a strong focus throughout on the idea that we’re there to reflect the conscience of the Fellowship, making sure the real authority always stays with the groups.

It was also said that this kind of service is some of the most rewarding you can do in AA, because it helps make sure the programme is still there for anyone who needs it in the future. Being there, you could really feel that shared sense of purpose - keeping AA a place where people can come to find a new way of living.

Would I recommend it? Absolutely – I’d do it again without hesitation.

*Jeff A*

### **Committee 5**

I served on Committee 5, which was tasked with a critical examination of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its potential impact on our Fellowship. The committee also addressed the importance of the Greeter role in our meetings.

#### **Item 1: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Alcoholics Anonymous**

The committee reached a strong conscience that while technology changes, our program must always be based on personal experience and "one alcoholic talking to another".

Potential Assistance: The committee recognised that AI could improve the effectiveness of our service administration.

Identified Risks: Significant concerns were raised regarding how AI might pose a threat to our Three Legacies, specifically:

- Anonymity breaches and data privacy issues.
- Dilution of the message in sponsorship and literature.
- A lack of personal responsibility and accountability/control over AI-generated content.
- The risk of deliberate or accidental misrepresentation of A.A.

#### **Application of Concepts 1 and 2**

Although the committee identified an urgent need for guidelines and guardrails, the decision was made to defer this item to Conference 2027. This deferral was a direct application of Concepts 1 and 2:

- Concept 1: This principle states that the final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. services resides in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. Because AI represents a significant change that affects A.A. as a whole, the committee felt that the "body politic" of the groups must be fully informed and consulted before national policy is set.
- Concept 2: While the Conference is the "actual voice and effective conscience" of our Society, it must act as a trusted servant. By deferring to 2027, the Conference ensures that delegates have time to take this information back to their Areas and

Groups, allowing for a truly representative decision that reflects substantial unanimity.

Next Steps: The PI and EComms Sub-committee has been suggested to lead the development of these guidelines, drawing on the expertise and experience of the wider Fellowship over the coming year.

### **Item 2: The Greeter Role**

Committee 5 also considered the importance of Greeters at our meetings.

- Conscience: The committee found this role to be vital for welcoming newcomers.
- Recommendation: It was unanimously recommended that a description of the Greeter role—focusing on being the first point of welcome and making introductions—be included in the Structure Handbook.
- Tradition 4: In making this recommendation, the committee fully recognised group autonomy, allowing each group to implement this role according to its own resources and conscience.

- **Committee 6 - Richard**

Question 1.

Could Conference explore and recommend safe ways for AA members in early sobriety to re-engage socially in light of the increasing presence of alcohol-free beers, wines, and spirits on the market?

There were several hours of discussion around this topic within Committee. The conclusion was that Conference cannot explore this. It also concluded that The Big Book, The Doctor's Opinion, the chapter on Working with Others and Living Sober already offer guidance relating to how members in recovery may engage socially within wider society.

This was unanimously agreed.

Question 2

This was to Review the proposed revised Chapter 8 of the AA Service Handbook on Probation / Criminal Justice Social Work Services (CJSWS).

It was decided to rename the title by deleting the word Criminal and insert Community and delete CJSWS and insert CJS. The new title being Probation / Community Justice Services (CJS)

The full Chapter was reviewed and amended and is attached to the full Conference Committee Report.

I can highly recommend the experience of attending Conference. It is brilliant as a Delegate to be part of the decision-making process for the Fellowship.

This was my final year as a Conference Delegate as unfortunately I had to miss last year's Conference due to illness.

Richard T

Felicity expressed her gratitude to all Conference Delegate and Alternate Conference Delegates for their service.

## 5. Nominations and Elections of Officers

- Midlands Region Chair –Jane K – proposed by Felicity, seconded by Max Approved unanimously
- NNCC Delegate – Carly G – Proposed by Debbie S, seconded by Felicity Approved unanimously

## 6. Nominations for GSB Trustee

There was much discussion around the “best practice” advice from GSO about Region nominating two applications for GSB Trustee. In view of there only being one applicant it was decided to vote and to advise GSO of our decision.

- Ian C was proposed by Felicity and seconded by Alex.  
Ian was voted unanimously as Midlands Region nominee for GSB Trustee.

## 7. Current Vacancies

### Current Service Positions and Vacancies –1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Position	Post Holder	Rotating Out
Chairperson	Felicity W	September 2026
Vice Chair	Alex McK	November 2026
Secretary	Richard T	July 2027
Treasurer	Helen C	May 2028
Archivist	Paul C	N/A
Armed Services	Marcus L	November 2028
Electronic Communications	Ian C	September 2028
Employment	Tom McD	January 2029
Health	Vacant	
Prisons	Trevor A	February 2028

Probation	Jane K	January 2027 <b>Jane will stand down at the September 2026 meeting. Pete W has expressed interest in the role</b>
Public Information	Caroline G	November 2027
Share	Vacant	
Telephones	Andy P	May 2028
Young Peoples	Rebecca P	November 2028

### 2025 Northern National Convention (NNCC)

Position	Post Holder	Rotating Out
Delegate 1	Chris H	April 2028
Delegate 2	Sue H	April 2027
Delegate 3	Debbie S	April 2028
Exec – Vice Chair	Felicity W	April 2027
Specialist Treasurer	Laurence C	N/A
Alternate Delegates	Vacant	<b>Sam A (NLIG) has expressed interest</b>

### 2026 General Service Conference (year is from April to April)

Committee No.	Delegate	Year	Final Conference year will start
1	Alex McK	3	April 2026
2	Ian C	3	April 2026

<b>3</b>	Patricia C	1	April 2028
<b>4</b>	Andy P	2	April 2027
<b>5</b>	Tom McD	2	April 2027
<b>6</b>	Richard T	3	April 2026
<b>Alternate 1</b>	Jeff A Attended for Committee 5		April 2026
<b>Alternate 2</b>	Debbie B		April 2028
<b>Alternate 3</b>	Debbie S		April 2028
<b>Alternate 4</b>	Vacant		
<b>Alternate 5</b>	Vacant		
<b>Alternate 6</b>	Vacant		

## Midlands Region GSB Trustee

Post Holder	Rotating Out
Maxine	April 2027

## 8. Intergroup reports

- **Birmingham – Jemma R (Region Rep)**

### Chair

Roy K has stepped down as a temporary Chairperson and handed the role back to Andy G.

### Other Changes

Mike B stood down after 30+ years of updating paper “Where to Find” leaflets. Jemma R is now taking on this role and actively seeking to ensure all pink forms and contacts for Birmingham meetings are up to date.

We have a new YPLO, Jacob, and a new PILO Dave who is leasing with RPILO Caroline G

### Finance

Since the appeal, groups T7 payments have increased by around £500.00.

Motion approved: £1,500 donation to Region as April Tradition 7 payment and again £1500 May T7 payment.

Treasurer to maintain prudent reserves. Non-cash payments guidance is a working document.

### Cultural L.O.

Carinna is liaising with Women Asian Aid, Kick It Pathways. PILO opportunities.

### Health.

Successful stand at West Midlands Police event. Midland Met Hospital training rolling out; AA comms scheduled for hospital screens. Planned awareness sessions with trainee doctors (Oct) and Queen Alexandra College (3<sup>rd</sup> June). Police, Paramedics and Fire brigade engagement progressing.

Birmingham Convention holding an Awareness Workshop for Professionals.

Looking for diverse representations for events.

### Telephone Service

Coverage: 89/90 shifts covered. Updated packs have been distributed; rising postage/printing costs (£10.00 per pack), considering digital alternatives where possible. Shift Coordinator vacancy to be readvertised.

### Literature

Due to GSO York backlog and demand and postage cost to GSO, Li (LLO) is bulk buying for groups to purchase direct from Intergroup. More groups are proactive with this.

### Prisons

Meetings are ongoing with 2 on one site. Available now is the anonymous pen-pal service via York. Access at privatised site, Winson Green is still an issue which intergroup will be following up on.

### Safeguarding

There have been multiple reports of vulnerable members feeling unsafe in meetings. Immediate proposals were suggested that these groups are to read the safeguarding statement at the beginning of the meeting, (based on the Structure Handbook, Group Section 5) and to remind groups that external agencies may be contacted where legal matters are concerned. Chair to follow up by contacting GSO for current guidance.

### Convention

Planning is progressing; new to the convention will include a Workshop for Professionals to learn how AA and Al-Anon help recovery. Possible Service workshop, also.

## ● **Black Country – Gloria (Region Rep)**

### **Chair / TLO Report**

Due to illness of Paul S TLO, Sam H is (acting) TLO with the assistance of Mary D, Nicole M and Grace R (B'Ham) They have worked tirelessly in getting the BC&WF AA Telephone Service up and running smoothly.

All Telephone Responders & 12 Stepper are now fully trained.

The Telephone Service hours have been reduced to 8 am to 10pm. Responders are responsible to log into the Tamar Voicemail at the start of their shift and are able to pick up calls missed during shift.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

It has been noted that Tradition 7 contributions through Intergroup had increased to 22 groups over the past few months compared to this time last year where only 12 groups sent in contributions.

#### **Prison LO Report**

Still not up and running due to manning clearance issues.

#### **Safeguarding LO**

A few issues have arisen which are in the process of being dealt with.

#### **Health LO**

A few local events have been attended at Recovery Near You, New Cross Hospital, and Bushy Field Hospital.

I have circulated the Profession Invitation to the Birmingham Convention to be held in August to the Local Council and to a few local g/p surgeries.

The AA small discs that were given out earlier in the year have shown to be quite popular at the local events attended.

The Convention Committee met on the 25th May. A date has been decided for the BC&WF Convention 3rd October 2026 in Lye.

### **● Coventry and Warwick – Chris O (Region Rep)**

Coventry and Warwickshire Intergroup continues to focus on increasing awareness of, and participation in, intergroup service throughout 2026.

A key development has been the decision to move our intergroup meetings to a new venue which will allow us to accommodate more attendees and provide significantly improved parking facilities. We hope this change will help remove practical barriers to attendance and encourage greater participation from groups across the area.

At our forthcoming June intergroup meeting **on June 10th**, we will be holding a dedicated **PI** service workshop which will replace the majority of the normal business meeting agenda.

The aim is to create a more engaging and informative environment for members interested in service and to encourage wider involvement in intergroup activities. Subject to the success of this first workshop, we intend to repeat this format at future meetings.

In addition, we are currently developing a short presentation which intergroup members will take out to local groups. This presentation will explain the role and purpose of intergroup, highlight the value of service, and showcase the many rewarding service opportunities available within intergroup structure.

We are also continuing to explore new initiatives aimed at increasing overall interest in intergroup participation and improving continuity in members coming forward to undertake liaison officer and other trusted servant roles.

Another commitment we have made this year is to provide more direct feedback to groups regarding Conference decisions, particularly on those matters where groups had been

specifically asked to contribute their views and experience. We hope this will strengthen communication between groups, intergroup, and the wider service structure. Alongside these initiatives, flyers promoting participation in intergroup service have already been circulated and are now in daily use across our meetings to help raise awareness and encourage involvement. We look forward to reporting further progress in the next report.

Chris O. CWIG regional rep.

## DISCUSSION

### CWIG, Potteries and Black Country IG have Safeguarding Officers

- **Derbyshire – Debbie S (Region Rep)**

There were 12 AAs attending the Intergroup meeting. These were made up of officers and GSRs. There was one visitor.

The minutes from the last meeting were ratified.

Much of the meeting was to discuss the Derbyshire mini convention on 14th June. Everything is going to plan and those helping to organise the convention understand their roles and know what is involved.

GSR engagement was also discussed for a while. Different ideas were discussed and a newsletter seemed to be the best thing to take Intergroup forward. It was also noted that last year groups were visited to try and spread the word about the importance of GSRs but unfortunately there wasn't any success. It is hoped that as the mini convention is around service this may help.

The officers gave their reports and there is some great work going on.

Unfortunately there wasn't a treasurers report as there is an acting treasurer who now lives in Vietnam and he didn't realise the Intergroup meeting was on the 24th May. He will give a full report in the next week.

One member was determined to discuss the finances and had made a report himself. It transpired that he still had access to the DIG account from many years ago and had been going into the account to research expenses, monies going out etc. this is a serious oversight on behalf of Intergroup and will be rectified with urgency. It was discussed why they would go into the account when they had no reason too.

Unfortunately after considerably bad behaviour through the meeting this member was asked to leave which they did do.

The next meeting will be on 6th Sept 2026.

- **Lincolnshire – No Region Rep**

No report received.

- **Northants – Tom McD (Region Rep)**

No report received

- **Notts / Leicester – Gareth L / Rebecca P (Region Reps)**

### **NLIG meetings**

Our last meeting was at 7.30pm on Friday 22nd May 2026, at St Judes Church, Woodborough Road, Nottingham. Hybrid Zoom ID : 748 233 4785 Passcode : Service

### **Finance**

At the end April 2026 NLIG's balance was £4525. It was voted to send £2525 to Midland Region.

### **Electronic tradition 7**

Bev J and H had kindly circulated a document regarding setting up electronic tradition 7. It was noted at the meeting that a few of the groups found the process a little overwhelming. It was decided that Bev J would be available to guide treasurers through the process in person.

### **Service position changes**

Tim S was voted in as Share Liaison Officer

Sam A was voted into service as a Region Rep. We now have a full compliment of three Region Reps.

Having rotated out of Public Information Annie C was voted in as Health Liaison Office.

Jack D was voted in as Public Information Liaison Office. He also remains in place as YPLO.

Dean M is looking to rotate out of the Archivist service position.

NLIG Chair (John B) rotates out in July 26. Interest has been shown.

ECLO Greg V rotates out in July 26. Looking for interest in this service position.

### **Gratitude Dinner**

The Gratitude Dinner is on Saturday 13th June 2026 at St Judes Church.

Tickets are still available. Gareth L has some that can be distributed at Region Meeting. Fellows can also reserve for collection on the door.

### **Under eighteens at meetings**

It was noted that a young person (minor) had started attending AA meetings. Rebecca P circulated a guidance note (including parental / guardian permission slip).

## **● Potteries and District – Jeff (Region Rep)**

### Meetings & Fellowship

Groups across Potteries & District continue to report healthy, active meetings. Attendance figures are generally strong, with most groups reporting between 10 and 40 members per meeting, good sobriety ranges, and a consistent flow of newcomers. Most groups are self-supporting and contributing regularly to Intergroup.

Rugeley groups were voted unanimously into Intergroup membership at the April meeting, expanding the district.

### Finance

The Intergroup's financial position has remained broadly healthy across the period. A prudent reserve of £2,000 has been maintained throughout.

### Donations to Region

- £1,500 approved at February 2026 Intergroup
- £2,500 approved at April 2026 Intergroup

### Service Roles

Officer changes across the two meetings:

- Paul H elected as Prison Liaison Officer
- Derek M elected as Male Safeguarding Officer
- Trev elected as Region Representative
- Danny C installed as Telephone Liaison Officer (sponsored into the role by outgoing TLO Sam HC)
- ECLO role vacant following Colin's resignation; Jeff A acting in the role pending a permanent appointment

### Ongoing Vacancies

- Health Liaison Officer
- Young Peoples Liaison Officer
- Electronic Communications Liaison Officer
- Treasurer (anticipated within six months — Mark L due to rotate out)

### Employment Liaison

Debbie has been active in the ELO role since December. Outreach activities have included:

- Staff welfare event at EE Hanley (Dry January) — approximately 20 staff attended
- Chamber of Commerce networking at Stoke City and Keele University (38 businesses present)
- International Women's Day event at the Doubletree Hotel, Stoke — over 250 attendees
- Contribution to the April edition of PI News following EE engagement

Upcoming: A presentation at the South Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce is planned for 22nd May. AA's participation in Nantwich Pride on 18th July is being arranged by Chris H.

### Prison Liaison

Fortnightly meetings continue at HMP Drake Hall (women's prison). Meetings at HMP Stafford have temporarily paused pending DBS clearances for five AA members currently awaiting approval. The prison is supportive and ready to recommence once clearances are granted.

Proposals for quarterly sobriety celebrations within the prisons are progressing, with anonymity safeguards being carefully considered. Members are encouraged to donate old Share magazines for prisoners and to come forward as key holders (three years' sobriety required) or postal and telephone sponsors.

### Probation Liaison

The role has been clarified following guidance from GSB: attendance at Approved Premises should follow a structured 6–12 week presentation cycle rather than weekly visits. Three Approved Premises are identified in the district:

- Wenger House, Newcastle
- Staithford House, Stafford
- Linden Bank, Sandbach

A WhatsApp group is planned for volunteers. Safeguarding requirements include attending in pairs, photo ID, DBS clearance, and two years' sobriety.

### Public Information

Matt W continues as PI Officer. Activities have included a LATH (Looking After The Homeless) event in Crewe and planned engagement with VAST (Voluntary Action Stoke-on-Trent). Several AA members have volunteered to assist with leaflet and poster distribution; Matt is coordinating this via a local area spreadsheet. A Burton Mental Health event is anticipated for 17th May.

### Archives

Daryl remains absent due to ongoing health issues. He is continuing with the basics of the role and has indicated he will reassess whether to continue in six months.

## Upcoming Events

- **Sponsorship Service Workshop:** Fenton, 18th April 2026
- **South Staffs Chamber of Commerce Presentation:** 22nd May 2026
- **Nantwich Pride:** 18th July 2026
- **Annual P&D Convention:** Saturday 17th October 2026 (Chair: Karen; tickets £5)

**Next Intergroup Meeting:** Monday 1st June 2026, 7.15pm, Swan Bank Church, Burslem

## DISCUSSION

Jeff advised a new Group is being set up in Kidsgrove.

## 9. Officer's reports

### • Chair – Felicity W

The main large events taking place since the January 2026 Midlands Region Assembly were the 50<sup>th</sup> North National Convention (NNC) and the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.

Deb will be reporting on the NNC. I will say it was a tremendous success with a record attendance.

Six delegates represented Midlands Region over the six committees at Conference. A huge thanks to all our delegates and an extra special thanks to Jeff for stepping in at short notice as an alternate for Tom on committee No 5.

Most urgent points to note are the need for applications for Midlands Region Board Trustee and Midlands Region Chair. September 2026 assembly will be my final one as Midlands Region Chair. I;m sure there's plenty of work to be done in my final few months.

Felicity W

## DISCUSSION

Felicity attending Regional Chairs meeting in York in July

### • Vice Chair – Alex Mck

I attended the Lincolnshire Intergroup meeting at the beginning of February to introduce myself and find out how they were doing, and also to ask them if Region could help them in any way. I was very warmly welcomed, and I explained that I was just there as an observer and to offer any assistance Region could give. They had a very interesting and informative

business meeting and later in the afternoon they had a Conference Question discussion attended by 5 members. I spoke with the Intergroup Exec and also found time to speak with a number of GSRs. A couple of members were interested in visiting the next Region assembly as observers and I suggested the May meeting might be the best one to observe as the March Region Assembly was only a half day Pre-Conference meeting focused on the Intergroups responses to Conference Questions.

My main focus after this was preparing for Conference by reading the reports from GSO and all the Literature amendments that were being presented. I read and collated all of the Intergroups responses for each Conference Question, particularly for Committee One.  
Alex McK

- **Secretary – Richard T**

Not much to report this time. I have the Regional Secretaries Annual face to face meeting in York coming up which is always a good meeting for comparing notes on best practice.

I am due to rotate out from this role in July 2027. However, **if there is anyone interested in taking over from me, please do let me know.**

My plan is to take about 3 months with the incoming new Secretary to sponsor them into the role. So, the sooner we can start the process the better.

## DISCUSSION

**Felicity suggested that all Region decisions are recorded in a separate document thus making it easier to find previous decisions. This was agreed**

- **Treasurer – Helen C**

This report covers the 4-month period from 1 January to 30 April 2026.

In summary, the figures are

Opening balance on 1/1/26 was £ 20,895.60

Income for the period was £ 20,765.08

Expenses for the period were £ 6,576.60

Contributions to GSO were £ 13,500.00

Leaving a closing balance on 30/4/26 of £ 21,584.08

Substantial Tradition 7 contributions were again received during the period totalling £ 20,306.00. Thank you! Other income includes bank interest received. We also received a contribution of £300 from the Midlands Polish Intergroup towards insurance costs.

Expenditure in the period was high due to payment of Conference Delegate fees to GSO and Delegates expenses. Midland Region approved accommodation and a meal the evening

before Conference and the Delegates felt that enable them to arrive fully prepared at the start of Conference.

A further £ 5,500 has been received from Intergroups in May. After taking into consideration normal Region costs over the next four months, I would like to recommend that we make a further contribution to GSO of £20,000 when the cheque from P&DIG clears. This would bring our total contribution for the financial year to £41,500.

Unfortunately, I am unable to provide an update on the finances at GSO as the Quarterly Accounts for both Q1 (Oct-Dec 2025) and Q2 (Jan 2026-Mar 2026) have not yet been issued, which is disappointing. As soon as these are available they will be circulated to the Intergroup Treasurers.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please ask and I will do my best to answer or find out!

Helen C.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Thanks were expressed to the Polish IG for their contribution towards Insurance. Helen proposed we send £20,000 to GSO. This was unanimously agreed. It was decided to invite IG Treasurers to the Regional AGM. It was proposed that the expenses of IG Treasurers will be paid. This was agreed. The mileage rate is changed to 55p per mile. This was agreed unanimously. The annual Insurance is coming up for renewal.**

## **Summary of Q1 & Q2 Reports for Midlands Region meeting May 2026**

The Charity has posted a surplus in both Q1 and Q2 resulting in a year-to-date surplus of £264,434. This has been driven almost exclusively by the increased contributions from members within the fellowship.

Overall, our in-year expenditure has decreased by £28,000 compared to this point last year. Increases in certain expenditure lines have been offset by reductions in others.

Total Income Q1+Q2 was £ 1,229,011

Total Expenditure Q1+Q2 was £ 964,577

Whilst the picture is incredibly positive, we continue to post a deficit against our W2/Prudent Reserve. This has, however, decreased by approximately £140,000 compared to quarter four of the previous financial year. Our overall W2/Prudent Reserve position is much improved compared to Q4 in the previous financial year.

W2 / Prudent Reserve Level 2025-26 £2,569,135

Reserves – March 2026 £2,372,172

Assets above/below – March 2026 £-241,963

Reserves – Sept 2025 £ 2,146,366

Assets above/below – Sept 2025 £-422,769

We are now beginning to report a number of key ratios within our quarterly reports. These help better represent the financial position of the Charity and will show the progress of the Charity over the course of the year.

Ratio	30 September 2025	Quarter One – Dec 2025	Quarter Two – Mar 2026
Operating Margin	2.5%	19%	21.5%
Cash days in hand	73 days	98 days	113 days

Operating margin looks at operating surplus earned as a percentage of revenue. In a profit earning company this would be better the higher it is, however, as a Charity we should ensure we are balancing our W2 figure with primary purpose expenditure.

Cash days in hand measures the number of days a business can cover its operating expenses using only its available cash.

The full Quarterly Accounts will be circulated to Intergroup Treasurers. The above are just key points. The level of information and analysis included in the Quarterly Reports now is a vast improvement of the very sparse information of 4-5 years ago indicating GSB have taken seriously concerns around financial transparency and accountability and how AA funds are used in support of carrying the message.

**Midlands Region**  
**Income & Expenditure**  
**01/01/2026-30/4/2026**

<b>Opening Balance @ 01/01/26</b>			<b>20,895.60</b>
<b>Intergroup income</b>			<b>20,306.00</b>
	Birmingham	4,500.00	
	Black Country & Wyre Forest	2,500.00	
	Coventry & Warwickshire		
	Derbyshire		
	Lincolnshire	2,500.00	
	Northamptonshire	4,450.00	
	Notts Leicester	4,406.00	
	Potteries & District	1,500.00	
	Other group contributions	450.00	
<b>Other income</b>			<b>459.08</b>
	Tradition 7 Pot	132.85	
	Polish Intergroup Insurance contribution	300.00	
	Bank interest	26.23	
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>20,765.08</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			<b>- 6,576.60</b>
	Chair Expenses	- 68.40	
	Vice Chair Expenses		
	Secretary Expenses	- 41.40	
	Treasurer Expenses	- 154.15	
	RELO Expenses		
	RTLO Expenses	- 103.00	
	RELO Expenses	- 117.00	
	RPLO Expenses	- 40.00	
	Rprob Expenses		
	Conf Del Expenses	- 961.14	
	Conf Del Fees	- 1,710.00	
	RASLO expenses	- 45.99	
	RHLO Expenses		
	RPILO Expenses		
	Bank Charges	- 26.00	
	Room Rent	- 1,052.00	
	PL Insurance	- 2,257.52	
	PI Project costs		
<b>GSO</b>			<b>- 13,500.00</b>
	Contributions	- 13,500.00	

Total Expenditure

- 20,076.60

Closing Balance @ 30/04/2026

21,584.08

## ● Archivist – Paul C

I have the following to report:

### Intergroup Archives

I'm at very early stages of lining up the information flow between myself and the Intergroup Archivists, aiming to get this moving more in the next session. Unfortunately time constraints this time around have beaten me.

My aim is to have made contact with, and gather news from, all the intergroup archivists that currently are in post across the region. I have made contact with some, but not all of them yet.

All the best

Paul C

## DISCUSSION

Paul was advised to contact the previous Region Archivist, Roy, by telephone

## ● Armed Services – Marcus L

REGIONAL ARMED SERVICES LIASON OFFICER REPORT (MIDLANDS) 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026  
Overview

Alcohol misuse among armed services personnel remains at rates above the national civilian population. I co ordinate with Intergroup ASLOS signposting where necessary, maintain contact with military bases in our region and attempt to bridge AA with H.M. Armed forces. Also maintain contact with veteran charities such as Royal British legion ensuring the AA message reaches those in need.

Actions

Made direct contact with the ASLOS in our region via Watsapp and phone to co ordinate East Anglia ,specifically RAF Marham . Spoke directly with a Sgt with a view to getting more AA information into the med centre there. Travelled to RAF Cosford and gave literature and posters to the nursing Sgt there whom I know personally. Cosford is a large training facility  
Professional contacts:

Linked with The Royal British legion to distribute meeting information in our area.

Linked with DMS Whittington training staff

Linked with 'Help for Heros' specifically indicating that whilst they offer ('The Hidden wounds Service' ) counselling that a link with AA services could be beneficial.

Responded to referrals for ASLOs support

Outcomes:

Increased visibility -posters for the mess at DMS Whittington

Challenges -Access to contacts on bases and the turnover of Military personnel, Time to travel for more military days/med centre days

Recommendations

Push for an online regular Region ASLO meetings and explore joint awareness events like Alcohol awareness week. Contact more individual military bases and get literature into all Welfare suites and med centres

Events

Armed forces weekend 27<sup>th</sup> of June. Full AA stand at the Arboretum

Marcus L

### ● **Electronic Communications (RECLO) – Ian C**

There hasn't been a great deal to report since January.

The region assembly in January saw a presentation, by Tim B. (Trustee PI & Ecomm.). I've put a copy of this on our region microsite for anyone who might find it useful.

I attended part of an online meeting for PI & Ecomm held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Unfortunately, I missed the start of the meeting as it overlapped with a subcommittee meeting I attended. The meeting was poorly attended and focused more on PI, so there isn't really a lot to say about it.

I've tried to keep the Midlands Region microsite as up to date and relevant as possible, but again I would ask anyone who has ideas for improvement or additions to get in touch. I asked all ECLOs to send a report to collate feedback, and I received 2 responses (NLIG & CWIG). Both report that they are progressing well with their microsities with few problems. Alison at CWIG did want to highlight a problem with how the information is presented on microsities on mobile devices. The intergroup (and region) pages are at the bottom, so users

have to scroll through all the group listings before reaching the intergroup pages. Not great for

those who are not familiar with microsities. I've taken this as an action point for the next Ecomm meeting in July.

Overall, our intergroup microsities are a mixed bag. Some more up to date than others, some with more information on them than others. Much of this seems to be down to a shortage of ECLOs and perhaps a lack of support and input from individual intergroups. I've always been an advocate of microsities as a free and effective way for intergroups (and regions) to highlight what's happening locally and to promote service opportunities. If I can be of any help in making better use of microsities, I'm happy to try to help.

All the best

Lif

Ian C.

RECLO, Midlands Region

## ● Employment – Tom McD

Unfortunately, due to my wife's health problems, I am unable to be with you today. I will start my report with the good news that NLIG has a new ELO, Palwinder. She has been active in corresponding with the Employment Sub-committee and with me seeking guidance in the role. I have been nominated to the role for Northamptonshire IG and hope to be elected at our next IG meeting in June. I have now set up a WhatsApp group for Midlands Region ELO's. If any other intergroups manage to fill the role, please let me know, and they can be added.

At the last Region meeting, I stated my intention to approach the blue-light services across the Midlands. I had some positive feedback from the Staff Wellbeing Management at East Midlands Ambulance Service, and we are hoping to arrange a meeting. This has temporarily been put on the back burner due to my wife's condition. I have kept the other ELO's informed, and I hope they will be able to participate when the meeting is arranged. The Director of People at EMAS is also the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives Human Resources Director in relation to wellbeing and suicide prevention for the whole of the UK, so this could evolve into a huge opportunity to carry our message.

Reports from the Intergroups:

Potteries & Districts, Debbie reports:

- On 6th March 2026, I attended an International Women's Day event at The Doubletree Hotel in Stoke. Over 250 women present. I networked with approx. 10 ladies handed them out leaflets and shared what AA could offer in terms of attending wellbeing and staff meetings.
- Following the January EE wellbeing visit and subsequent feedback sent to York by EE. I was approached and ask to contribute. An article was included in April edition of PI news
- Chris H and I work closely together and he continues to attend Final Friday events which are run via the Chamber of Commence
- Chris and I will be sharing at a Final Friday event on May 22nd. Chris is covering an Introduction to AA and myself
- Chris is preparing for Pride event on 18th July 2026.

Notts/Leics, Palwinder reports:

Palwinder NLEIC Employment report 8 May 2026

I have a list of A-z trade unions which I am working through albeit slowly.

organisation name & number date contacted and progress 2026 comments/suggestions  
Follow Up EON no contact name 22 April email from Bev treasurer. Sent email letter with full PJ full details Accord trade union Paula Tegg info@accordhq.org 22 April sent email without video and leaflet diarised to follow up Advance TU Santander Gerry Moloney

gerry@advance-union.org 22 April very receptive. Sent email without video and leaflet with my details. He will be talking to his boss to see how AA can be LinkedIn their website diarised to follow up Other progress I have been in touch with George Prisons LO and he has kindly passed contact details for Ranby, Lowdham Grange, Nottingham. Liaising with Tom of Midlands Regional ELO for guidance with my letter to trade unions. Angie N - has kindly suggested I connect with Royal College of Nursing At this early stage it is collecting names and contact details.

(The above was in a chart layout, but I have lost this when copying for this report). Tom

Finally, there will be a Regional ELO meeting at GSO on Friday evening and Saturday morning, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of June. As I am unable to attend and Debbie is unable to commit for the Friday evening, Palwinder has kindly agreed to attend on behalf of Midlands Region. She will submit a report afterwards.

It is my sincere hope that I will be back in circulation before the September meeting. Until then, I remain

Yours in fellowship and service

Tom McD

## DISCUSSION

**It was agreed for Palwinder to attend the York meeting and that Region would pay her expenses. Palwinder to attend the September meeting to report back. Richard to check with GSO that Palwinder is booked in ok.**

- **Health –**

No report received.

- **Prisons – Trev A**

### **Potteries and District.**

**HMP Drake Hall** – Women's prison and **HMP Stafford** – All male prison

Stafford prison meetings are on hold now due to the main key holder dropping out of service.

We are working tirelessly to recruit more key holders so as we can get the meetings up and running again as soon as possible. Drake Hall meeting has a high turnover of prisoners because most of the prisoners who attend the meeting have usually been transferred from other prisons as they near the end of their sentence. Both meetings are well supported by Intergroup regarding big books and other AA literature

AA are now involved in the quarterly celebration meetings held in Drake Hall.

### **Lincolnshire.**

Prison meetings are going well in Lincolnshire with all three prisons receiving meetings.

**Lincoln** and **Morton Hall** have one meeting every two weeks.

**North Sea Camp** has one meeting every third Thursday of the month.

Many thanks

Alison

Prison Liaison

### **Black Country and Wyre Forest.**

I have had very little interest for meeting facilitators up to now with only 1 person who has passed their vetting.

Unfortunately, the prison rejected my vetting, I am in the process of appealing this as I have no criminal record but so far have heard nothing back.

This has unfortunately led to meetings being stopped as I only have 1 individual who has passed their vetting and they won't go in without another person.

The process of DBS and prison vetting is putting lots of people off volunteering

Unfortunately, all prison meetings have been suspended pending my appeal

Karen is still awaiting the date for her appeal hearing

LIF Karen.

### **Coventry and Warwickshire**

Coventry and Warwickshire IG Prisons Report to Region – May 2026

We are active in the two prisons in our area - **HMP Rye Hill** (sex-offenders only) and **HMP Onley**. We facilitate meetings every Thursday afternoon in both prisons and, since February this year, we have supported HMP Onley's new Monday evening meeting.

I attend HMP Onley's monthly drug strategy meetings where, naturally, I don't get involved in prison operational discussions; however, I am able to say what AA is and is not able to do.

Having an 'AA face' at these meetings also demonstrates our commitment to helping prisoners in their efforts to recover from alcoholism.

Our team of only 6 members does mean we are at full stretch. Consistent appeals to our groups for members to get involved in prison service have been made in recent months, however the response continues to disappoint.

Members of our prison team have a total of 9 prisoner sponsees, meeting with them regularly to guide them through the Steps and support their recovery. Our consistent involvement with the prison groups and step-work with individual inmates over recent years has meant that an increasing number of individual prisoners have a good level of recovery and are able to share this positively at meetings. Naturally, this helps newcomers immensely.

Both prisons have good supplies of literature. Their DART teams and prison staff continue to be very supportive of AA.

Neal C.

### **Nottingham/Leicester.**

#### **HMP Nottingham (Clive A)**

Nottingham Meetings continue every Tuesday, we are still getting the odd cancellation due to emergency issues within the prison and staff are unable to support the meeting. They always give plenty of notice and we manage to avoid unnecessary travel. Numbers can vary each week from as little as 1 or 2 but tend to average around 8 or so. There is interest from most that attend and a few have expressed an interest in attending meetings on the outside.

Plain language big books have been suggested and updated where to find leaflets will be useful. Clive to action.

More keyholders are still needed. One has been put forward for clearance, but I have not had any feedback on this yet. We have also requested that the PLO and Intergroup chair be key trained to provide additional resilience.

We have not yet received a response from management to my request for a meeting to discuss how to improve attendance.

#### **HMP Lowdham Grange (Annie C)**

The meeting at HMP Lowdham Grange continues to run well. There have been a few instances asking for the meeting to finish 15 mins early. This in addition to it never starting on time. It's meant to be 10–11.30 but rarely starts before 10.30. This is something that the PLO and I will bring up when a review meeting is organised in due course. Overall, we have a great hour long meeting most weeks.

Books will be ordered this month for the library and several copies of Living Sober for regulars to keep.

There's been a steady flow of newcomers over the past few months who seem to get a lot from the meeting.

Four members have taken the address of where to write to get a sponsor.

Many success stories recently. One member has just turned 4 months clean and sober and regularly attends. He now has a job and is much more settled and happier. Another after attending regularly is now clean as well as sober and has recently been given a move to a Cat C prison. A long-term sober member who is an excellent role model and speaks very eloquently is writing in to Share Magazine. Overall, the members are doing well and really engage and chat with each other before and after the meeting. Very pleasing progress.

#### **HMP Ranby (John B)**

Meetings continue to run smoothly and are well attended.

We have begun to give out the email address for the NLIG Prison Liaison Officer to meeting attendees who are about to be released, so they can contact members of the team.

HMP Ranby hierarchy have told me, during my visit on the 5th of May, that the meeting time is to be moved from Tuesday afternoon to Tuesday morning. This will begin in June.

Thanks to all volunteers who attend the meeting.

### **HMP Fosseway (Ben A)**

Meetings are held weekly on a Tuesday Afternoon and are well attended with good engagement from the prisoners, some of whom are long term sober.

I have been volunteering at HMP Fosseway for about 18 months now and have found the interest in this position has been popular and everyone that has attended have had a really great experience. I am sure that each volunteer will say the same, that this post has made such an improvement to potential members that attend our meetings regularly.

We hope to continue to learn and take the message of recovery into HMP Fosseway (Leicester)

### **General**

The major news on the horizon is that I have had an email from the manager of the Substance Abuse Team at **HMP Leicester** (Welford Road). She is incredibly keen to have AA organise meetings in the prison. I have suggested that we meet her to discuss the logistics. Since I will likely be incapacitated for most of June following a surgical procedure, I have asked Ben A who is Prison Sponsor for HMP Fosseway to progress this matter.

The various prison Sponsors have been made aware of the budget that Intergroup allocated for literature and are currently compiling their requirements. I anticipate that we will focus on providing copies of Living Sober and the Plain Language Big Book.

Vicki T has kindly donated a large supply of old copies of Fellowship magazines to help us carry the message in prisons. Many thanks Vicki, and to Ellie P and Janice N for organising them to be delivered to me. I'm whiling away many an hour removing the contact details from the middle pages! I will distribute them to the prison Sponsors ASAP.

Finally, we are always on the lookout for additional volunteers to help carry the message into prison. Volunteers should have a minimum of 12 months continuous sobriety. We would particularly like to hear from people who live close to the various prisons as this will help cut down on the cost of providing the service.

George C May 2026

Clive A – Outgoing PLO – NLIG

### **Derbyshire.**

#### **Prison Report Derbyshire Intergroup**

HMP Foston Prison is going very well. We are having an average of 10 ladies to the Friday meeting. Many are regulars and they realise the AA meeting is a safe space as the effects of Gossip and how dangerous it can be is heavily emphasised. The ladies support each other throughout the meeting. They are eager to help clean up. As always, the sobriety chips go down really well and it's great celebrating. They all enjoy filling out their gratitude books and we share these when the meeting starts and it's a nice positive way to start the meeting.

We have just finished taking 2 ladies through the steps. We did take another lady through the steps but as she was being released, we had to get hers done first. The two ladies who have just finished the steps have been so eager to get them done and the change in their behaviour is phenomenal and so heartwarming to see. Not just in the meeting but apologising to staff if needed and pausing when agitated. There is a waiting list of ladies wanting to do the steps so we will start again with 5 more ladies. The two ladies that have finished will be taking an active role in the steps sessions to give them the confidence and understanding to be able to sponsor other ladies by themselves with an end goal of setting up their own AA fellowship inside the prison.

It was decided due to cost that Big Books wouldn't be given to the ladies until they had finished the steps. This was a 100% the right decision. Not only because of the cost but we have seen how the ladies cherish the book when given them after finishing their steps. They see it as something they have earned and a reward for all their hard work. They are proud of themselves, and their new Big Books and we are so proud of the ladies.

Debbie S

PLO Derbyshire Intergroup.

### **Birmingham.**

#### **HMP Winson Green.**

We are getting a good turnout at Winson green and one of the officers on the wing has put a list of all the names of the citizens on a notice board that want to attend which has put the numbers up. I say we but most of the time it's just myself but it's not a problem with me as I really like doing it and intend to carry on every fortnight from 1.45-2.45

Mick

### **Northamptonshire.**

I have the following to report.

#### **HMP Wellingborough**

AA service at Five Wells Prison has been running generally smoothly. We can normally cover at least one member to go in weekly and participate in their inmate led meeting on Saturdays at 2:15 pm.

I attended a resettlement day at the prison a few weeks ago, providing a speech about AA and how we work and visited a group meeting once during this quarter.

There are currently seven of us in this team.

#### **HMP Stocken**

The weekly AA meeting at the prison has a good request rate from prisoners wanting to attend, of around 9-10 inmates each week but due to several reasons, including logistical factors within the prison, sometimes the actual attendance can be less than that.

Clearances are now beginning to get traction, and we are also bringing in more members local to the prison.

There are currently nine of us in this team.

#### **HMP Gartree**

I visited the head of vetting at the prison this quarter and discussed how the process currently works there. At that same meeting we did the required key training and vetting

which now enables me to draw keys and move within the prison once cleared through the gate.

We are still awaiting the final nod from the prison on our meeting's first date; I have requested for it to be on Saturdays during the daytime.

All the best.

Paul C.

## **A.O.B**

The monthly PLO zoom meetings are now up and running and very well attended.

The next prison subcommittee meeting is on Friday July 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

The prison subcommittee are looking to hold the next prison workshop some time in October.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Re DBS checks – note that it is essential to include everything ! Do NOT miss anything out. Even minor offences need to be included.**

### **● Probation – Jane K**

No Report received

## **DISCUSSION**

**Jane has been having problems with her AAMAIL.ORG email address and has not been receiving emails.**

**York PI and Prisons meeting on 17, 18 July – Jane and Pete to attend. Richard to check with Jenny**

### **● Public Information – Caroline G**

Our regular PILO zoom will take place on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>. All agree that these monthly get togethers are helpful.

Some feedback below from PILOS around the Intergroups.

I'm pretty sure all this will also be re-covered by the relevant Regional Delegates but here goes.

It is a pleasure to welcome David to the team.

David is the new PILO for Birmingham. His initial report below:

BIG: Recently, a 1hr zoom liaising with intergroup Health team. They are focusing on gathering a suitably diverse team for schools, preparing packs for professionals along with a stocktake of our current inventory of leaflets, bookmarks, posters etc. And generally getting to grips with the new role.

Annie Notts/Leics

Annie is very much winding down now as she rotates out this month.

P.I. are organising another 'open event' and will invite as many medical professionals and others as possible.

This will coincide with alcohol awareness.

John CWIG

This month CWIG's PI team has mostly been focussing on preparing for its P.I. workshop in June. We will be using the workshop to encourage and enthuse groups and members to undertake PI work locally.

Ian Northants

Ian and Steve (incoming PILO) had the opportunity to deliver two 20 minutes talks to the rotary club at their conference. This allowed them to explain AA and share their experience. During the talks they were able to address 50 delegates and pass on contact details for future signposting.

There was also the opportunity to offer visits and talks to individual clubs.

They were given a contact form that Ian will circulate, to allow all PIs to reach out to the national and local organisations for rotary if they wish to share their stories and help with signposting. This will be great outreach.

The talks were very well received and there has already been a request to visit a local club and talk to their members.

Matthew Potteries

Nothing fresh to report but plans are in action going forward

Dave BC&WF

No report this time.

Yours in fellowship

Caroline G

### ● **Telephones – Andy P**

I have been invited to attend a Regional Telephone Liaison Officers (RTLO) meeting at GSO, scheduled to take place from 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of August. I have accepted this invitation.

GSO will cover the costs of dinner, bed, and breakfast for the duration of the meeting. However, I am requesting approval for funding to cover my travel expenses for the return car journey from Birmingham to York.

Please see the attached invitation from GSO for reference.

**Andy P**

## **Midlands RTLO Birmingham Intergroup**

February to April 2026

### **Birmingham**

- Number of telephone responders 99
- 98 12-Step Responders (50 male, 48 female) including 8 language responders and 1 Armed Forces responder.
- Worcester: 23 12-Step Responders (13 male, 10 female).
- Excellent shift coverage, with 99–100% of scheduled shifts filled February to April.
- Recruitment is continuing for both Telephone Liaison Officer and Telephone Shift Coordinator roles.
- New responder recruitment and training is generally steady, maintaining replacement for those stepping down.
- Birmingham provided additional support to the Black Country area by covering some of their telephone shifts.

## **Black Country and Wyre Forest Intergroup**

Telephone service is running quite smoothly currently.

**NTSC Guidance** - We've trained the last existing responder now so the implementation of the NTSC's suggestions and what Intergroup voted/agreed upon, is now complete. All new responders will follow the agreed process of completing an application form and 1 hours training on Zoom.

**Training** - We have also trained 4 new responders and they all have a regular shift now.  
**Applications** - We have 3 applicants awaiting training, however 2 of these haven't been engaging with the sessions/trainer in the whatsapp group. The Telephone committee will look at this situation.

**Vacant Shifts** - Currently we have 2 regular vacant shifts - Tue 6pm - 10pm & Sat 1pm - 6pm. One of our new applicants is interested in the Sat shift.

**Shift Coverage** - A message is posted in the responder WhatsApp group on a Sunday with the shifts needing cover for the week ahead and responders come forward to cover what they can. In the last 2 months we have had 5 shifts completely uncovered and the voicemail has picked up any messages.

**New Rota** - The live Telephone Rota implementation is going well and so far all new responders are using it and selected their regular shift from it, and about 60-70% of existing responders use it.

**Voicemail** - The Voicemail implementation has had some teething problems, with some responders needing a reminder to call it and deal with the voicemails during their shift, but we are getting there. I currently check it daily on the evening shift to see if there are any outstanding voicemails.

**Telephone Committee Roles** - The Telephone Committee have come up with some Committee Roles and their Responsibilities and documented them, see attached. I would like Intergroup to view and hopefully approve these. Hopefully we can then get some people to come forward to help.

**Armed Services 12 Step List** - GSO have issued an Armed Services 12 Step list, put together by the Armed Services Sub-Committee, for all our responders to use. This will be added to our Telephone pack soon.

**Our Tamar Telephone Stats** - 1/4/26 - 20/5/26 - Calls Received - 670, Calls unanswered 104 (the vast majority of these made contact afterwards and where dealt with).

**National 0800 Stats** - The NTSC has issued the stats for this last Quarter for the 0800 number and we are doing well, see attached image. We are under the 20% max for ineffective calls, which is great! See full stats attached for Intergroup.

Thank you for letting me be of service!

YiF

Sam H (On behalf of the Telephone Committee)

### **Coventry and Warwickshire Intergroup**

Steady over the last few months, with no problems at all. We are fully staffed but looking for new responders all the time as we will have a couple rotating out of service. Our 12 step list is healthy in all our areas. But as with responders we are always recruiting for more 12 steppers. No nuisance calls and BT (Touch wood) is running smoothly. Our contract with BT end in September enabling us to switch over to TAMAR. I will start to put things in motion in a couple of months. All smooth here in

Nik E

Coventry & Warwickshire

### **Derbyshire Intergroup**

The Derbyshire Helpline is ticking over nicely, in the last 3 months we have received 348 calls including out of hours calls to the answerphone and calls that were ended before being answered.

Responders and 12 Steppers are amazing and work as a team, covering each other's shifts as needed.

The WhatsApp groups are great tools, to easily put the weekly Rota up and more recently has helped the Responders to check with each other regarding a repeat caller from Prison who was misusing and wasting the Responders valuable time. I could then monitor what was happening and then blocked the caller with the groups backing.

Carly

Derbyshire Telephone Liaison Officer

### **Lincolnshire Intergroup**

The helpline is running smoothly with a brilliant team of 21 responders each doing a 4 hour shift each week. We are going to move to Tamar telecommunications sometime in August so hoping that goes smoothly 🙏

The figures for the last 3 months are attached.

I am due to rotate out of the TLO role in August and have mentioned this at the last intergroup meeting so members can share at their meetings.

Maggie A  
TLO Lincolnshire.

<u>LINCOLNSHIRE HELPLINE QUARTERLY FIGURES: S February to April 2026.</u>			
<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LANDLINE</u>	<u>MOBILE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Febuary 2026	Zero	101	101
March 2026	06	95	101
April 2026	05	69	74
			Grand total
			276

● **Young Peoples – Rebecca P**

Apologies for a missing report from the last meeting - I had a period of illness.

My core priority has been trying to track down who the YPLOs are across the region, currently I know:

Birmingham	
Black Country	I know there is one - I don't have a name!
Coventry and Warwickshire	Flora
Derbyshire	
Lincolnshire	
Northamptonshire	Beth
Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire	Jack D
Potteries and District	

Any clues as I continue this mission to identify the YPLOs are much appreciated!

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I'm aiming to facilitate more collaboration across the region's YPLOs, and have been exploring ways to best do this. There is a national YPLO Whatsapp group too.

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I've been working with fellows in Notts/Leicestershire to discuss the issue of young people under the age of 18 attending meetings of AA. Naturally, there is concern around balancing our third tradition with safeguarding obligations. The structure handbook states:

Minors are defined as children and young people under the age of 18, although this legal definition may vary from country to country.

If, however, the Fellowship uses it as a guideline, we can better ensure the safeguarding of these younger members.

We want to help minors who believe they may have a drink problem, but we must respect the law.

Consideration should be given to laws protecting minors where best practice is for written parental or guardian consent to be obtained. It should also be understood that minors do have the right to make their own informed decisions.

This question was also addressed by conference this year, who recommended the guidance be reviewed. In the interim, I have been discussing the wording of a permission slip and have been advised that the Midlands Region insurance does cover minors attending meetings as a member.

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I have participated in the planning for NORTHYPAA, the North West and North East Regions Young Persons Convention, which will be held 8th-9th August 2026. I have appended a flyer to this report.

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I've had reports from Notts/Leics and the Black Country:

**Black Country:**  
Not much to report.

Helped the university student with her assignment about alcoholism by providing a statement written by Ryan.

Will continue to share YP workshops ran by the YP Subcommittee for anyone who may want

to join and have any questions answered

Notts/Leicestershire

It's been the usual dribs and drabs on the YPLO front, here's what's been happening in the past few months:

1. We were lucky enough to welcome someone to their first ever meeting - at the tender age of 20!
2. A fellow I know is bringing another young person to his first ever meeting next week - fingers crossed...
3. I've been on a few calls with various younger sorts and am sign-posting them and generally being of service
4. One of our younger members we saw come through the doors a year or so ago when we first started have celebrated some nice recovery milestones, including a year - which is always heartening!
5. I've been available to help in the usual way

As ever, if you have a young person, or indeed anyone, who needs a hand in the rooms in Notts/Leicester or beyond get me on this email [youngpersons.nleic@aamail.org](mailto:youngpersons.nleic@aamail.org)

### ● **NNCC – Sue H / Debbie S**

This was the first meeting since the convention in March.

Some members were rotating out, special thanks for their service was given to Pete G, Ange, Pete N, Dave and Mark.

New members were welcomed Sally & Diane.

The findings of the questionnaire were discussed and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

There had been a change of rooms and Al-Anon were given a bigger room which they were grateful for.

The Archives was a great success and this year not only did we have Deans wonderful display but displays from 2 other AA members.

The podium shares had positive feedback but a new script for the person chairing will be organised and it will emphasise on moderating bad language and sticking to the primary purpose Alcohol.

The literature stall was very busy and lots of sales were made especially the celebratory book cover.

This year there were meditation and LGBTQI + meetings and it was decided that these would be added to the 2027 convention.

The late stayers meeting was included on the flyer this year and 60 people attended.

1284 people attended compared to 1193 in 2025.

The financial surplus is £3523.63 which will be added to the prudent reserve.

The Tradition 7 pot was £2105.42 and this was sent straight to GSO.

Full accounts will be circulated after the AGM.

All in all this was a very successful convention and a fitting way to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Debbie S

## **10. Trustee report**

### **Board Bullet Points**

**GSO** – Sharon S to leave 30 September 2026 after 38 Years

Emma W to be Conference Coordinator

Anne-Marie S Confidential Directory/ aamail, Survey and Internal Telephones

Andrew B– new part time literature staff

### **Calendar**

AA Service News Deadlines

Autumn – 25 July 2026

Winter – 25 October 2026

Spring – 25 January 2026

Summer – 25 April 2026

Regional Forums – 3 per year

GSO/GSB presentation, no more than every 3 years per Region

**Northwest Region** – 17 May 2026

**Highlands and Islands** - 15 August 2026

**South Midlands -** 18 October 2026

**ESM - 13 – 20 October 2027**

**ESM Fund -** £25k paid into WSM Nov 2025 - £40k balance

**WSM:** Portugal to Host in 2026 – Reserve Host India

**SSASM:** Cancelled. We have now had several workshops with the Kenya Intergroup helping them develop their ideas on how they can grow. East Africa Service Workshop to be held online on 25 November with AAWS in attendance to assess potential for a face to face East African Service meeting in November 2026

**Development fund:** £25,659.44 paid in; £50k paid out of WSM October 2024. £81k balance

**Welsh Parliamentary Event –** 5 November 2026

**Scottish Parliamentary Event –** TBC Autumn 2026

**Westminster Parliamentary Event –**TBC Spring 2027

### **Subcommittee Appointments**

**Stephen E** SE Region **Literature Subcommittee**

**David S** Scotia Region **Probation and Community Justice Subcommittee**

GSB/Subcommittee applications deadline 7 August 2026

### **Conference Questions to be actioned by the Board, 2026 – 27 Update on completed items**

**C1Q1** Preamble Change has been approved by the Board. Changes will be applied with literature reprints and publications going forward

**C1Q3** Service Handbook – AA in Prison – changes done on website and new edition of the handbook

**C4Q1** The suggestion to have the Working Group find ways to strengthen practical application of Tradition 1 with regards to Safeguarding has been accepted by the Board and will be taken forward

**C6Q2** – The requested changes to wording in the final report regarding Service Handbook Chapter 8 Probation/Community Justice Services have been done

**(2025 C5Q1)** - The Board has approved the motion to go ahead with the Men's Video

**(2024)** British Big Book will be presented at Conference 2027.

Max J  
Trustee Midlands Region

## 11. Next meetings

- September 20<sup>th</sup> 12 Concepts Workshop

**There was discussion about opening the Concepts Workshop to be a hybrid meeting.**

**Patricia to send link to video on Concepts**

- November 22<sup>nd</sup> AGM
- January 31<sup>st</sup> 2027

## 12. AOB

### Observance of Tradition 7 and Serenity Prayer

Richard T  
Midlands Region Secretary