

**60th  
GENERAL SERVICE  
CONFERENCE  
2026**



**17 - 19 April 2026**

***Love & Tolerance  
of Others***

**Final Report 2026**

**General Service Office of AA  
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# SIXTIETH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2026

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# DIGEST OF AGENDA

## Friday 17 April 2026

Opening Session

Committee Meetings Commence

Nominations - Conference Chair 2027

Presentation of  
General Service Board Reports:  
(Session 1)

Finance Presentation  
European Service Office  
Men's Video  
Survey

## Saturday 18 April 2026

Committee Meetings Continue

Presentation of  
General Service Board Reports:  
(Session 2)

Literature  
Accessibility  
Probation

Open Forum

## Sunday 19 April 2026

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chair for the Sixty-First General Service  
Conference 2027

Confirmation of Board Members Elect  
Closing Address

# FRIDAY 17 APRIL

The Sixtieth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain convened in person on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 2.45p.m. Held at the Radisson Hotel, North Street, York – situated in the heart of the City of York and only a few minutes' walk from the Railway Station and the General Service Office. All full sessions were held in the Henley Suite.

After lunch, registration and distribution of folders commenced at around 1 pm and was followed by a reception which, as usual, provided an ideal opportunity for delegates to familiarise themselves with the venue, to renew friendships and to share with those delegates and observers attending for the first time. After the opening session, Committee proceedings commenced at 4.00pm including welcome and introduction to Committees.

The Conference comprised 86 delegates from sixteen Regions; 18 members of the General Service Board plus 9 members elect; Richard P-S - Conference Chair (South West Region), Ranjan B, the General Secretary and 8 members of staff from the General Service Office attended. Also in attendance were 11 Observers from the following countries:

Bulgaria	1
Belgium – Flemish speaking	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1
Hungary	1
Ireland	2
Latvia	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Turkey	1

Total in attendance 134.

## **Opening of Conference by Richard P-S (Conference Chair 2026)**

Good afternoon, Conference, welcome to the Radisson in York for a weekend of fellowship, respectful discussion and/or debate, love and tolerance of others. My name's Richard, and I'm an alcoholic. On behalf of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, it is my incredible privilege to be able to stand here and welcome you to this the 60th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain.

Before we begin the formal proceedings, can I ask you to observe a moment of silence to reflect on our primary purpose and to remember the still suffering alcoholic who has yet to come through our doors.

The Preamble: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution;

does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.”

If this is your first year as a Conference Delegate I extend a special welcome to you. You will have a Red Dot on your badge, and you are affectionately known as ‘Red Dotters’. Your dot allows other delegates to identify you as a first timer and to look after you. We have some overseas visitors, and I would extend a special warm welcome to you too. You have a Green Dot on your badge. This allows delegates to identify you as observers, and I am sure all will be ready to help should you have any questions. If you are colour blind, just be lovely and helpful to everyone and you won’t go too far wrong.

Welcome also to our ‘No Dotters”, the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> (and in some cases 4<sup>th</sup>) year delegates. Thank you for all the service you have provided within your Regions and Intergroups prior to this Conference that has allowed you to carry what, I am sure, are the interesting and varied views of the Fellowship across AA GB of the questions that have been asked this year, of course this thanks equally applies to the “Red Dotters”.

Welcome too, to the General Service Board Trustees (who I understand have quite a few new members themselves) and to the members of the General Service Office who provide an amazing service to us all at Conference but also throughout the year, with all the preparation that goes on behind the scenes. This Conference marks the 37<sup>th</sup> Conference that Sharon Smyth has convened but sadly (for us) the last as she moves on to her next adventure, could I please get a rousing show of gratitude towards Sharon for all the service she has provided us and will continue to provide to us over this her final Conference, what an incredible servant she has been to AA GB.

Now I would like to invite, Ranjan B, our General Secretary, to read the Twelve Traditions.

Thank you Ranjan

I would also like to invite Tim B, (GSB Trustee) to lead you all in reciting the 12 steps. And Pragna (Trustee Elect) to read the declaration of Unity

Thank you.

### **Keynote Address – Love and Tolerance of Others**

Had you asked me a couple of years ago what I would have chosen as a theme for Conference, it would not have been Love and Tolerance of Others. It would probably have been something like Just for Today (which Alison selected last year) or Contempt Prior to Investigation, which plays a big part in my story, but probably isn't really an ideal theme for Conference. Over the last two years of my service, however, it seems to have got chosen for me.

Previous drafts of this keynote had a good dollop of the profound, insightful and thought-provoking commentary, with a smattering of witty comment that would make even the bleedinest of the bleedin' deacons give a wry smile, but I've had to edit all of that out, so we are just left with this.

The problem with anything like this is how to get started, but like all things in my life, the programme had an answer. A few years ago, I put my hand up to be part of a Southwest committee which was charged with finding a way to carry the Traditions and Concepts to the members in the Southwest. We settled on a weekly workshop and share meeting approach whereby experienced members of the Fellowship would come and share their experience of a Tradition or Concept. We

also chose to do this in a four-week rotation: a Tradition one week, a Concept a week later, a history share, and a share on the Three Legacies. While I loved all of them and learnt so much, I always enjoyed the Legacies shares the most, and I think this would be a great way for me to proceed.

## Recovery

Drinking was my solution to life and, of course, life is every day, so I applied my solution every day — and then it stopped working.

When I arrived at the doors of my first meeting, I was despairing, remorseful, I didn't fit, I was hopeless, I was broken and I was defeated. I finally threw my hands up after 40 years and said: I don't understand, I can't make it work, I need help.

It is certainly not a cliché for me to say that this Fellowship loved me back to life. It schooled me and re-parented me; it taught me how to be human and how to function without needing to drink.

Before the Fellowship, I knew nothing of love or tolerance. Of others, I thought very little, other than what I could get from them.

I was terrible at relationships. I didn't know how to do them or even what they were for. As far as I was concerned, everything was all about me — my happiness, my convenience, my getting just about everything I desired. Of love, I knew nothing; I thought it just another word for like or lust.

I was shown love in the rooms. I was taught that love is not material, it can't be owned, it's not something you have — it's something you give, and it's something you give freely. As my understanding of love grew, it changed my relationships and it changed me. I now feel that this is the very essence of my recovery and the very essence of my Higher Power. There's a song by a band called Above & Beyond called *Treasure*, and it has the lyric: "Treasure is measured in units of love." I am a firm believer that this is very much the case. Those with a true understanding of, and ability to give, love are the wealthiest people in the world.

Of tolerance, I had none — for anyone or anything, least of all myself, as it turned out.

As love grew, so did tolerance. It had to. "Where's the love in that?" I would often be told, and it is always the very best of challenges that will pull me up and make me take a look at what I'm doing.

The funny thing about tolerance — as I have alluded to — is that most of my intolerance was with myself. If someone irritated me and I wanted to go and give them a piece of my mind, finding them controlling or manipulative, selfish or dishonest, I need only swap their name for mine — because I'm not judging them, I'm judging myself. I am all of those things. These are some of my many defects, and I have a programme which allows me to be relieved of them.

AA takes the hopeless and the broken and, through the Steps, the Traditions, and the Fellowship of one alcoholic with another, makes them whole and useful — in a way that only someone who has been to the bottom and felt so hopeless can truly understand. I owe a debt to this Fellowship that I know I can never fully repay. It keeps me selflessly working to be the best version of myself, one day at a time.

## Service

I learnt very early that gratitude isn't just a noun — "I feel so very full of gratitude" — but a verb, a doing word if you will. I express my gratitude through my actions.

In our Fellowship we have this ingenious thing which not only teaches us to be less selfish and more selfless, but also allows us to demonstrate our gratitude. It's called service.

I was taught very early that service is not a choice, it's not an option — it's part of our recovery and it's the lifeblood of our Fellowship. It was put simply to me (it always needs to be): "If you don't do the service, who's going to open the door for the next still-suffering alcoholic? Who is going to put a tea or coffee in their hand and tell them to listen for the similarities and not the differences?"

Without service, there is no meeting, and the next person through the door doesn't get the gift that I was freely given.

I always get so passionate about this subject, and I will talk and talk and extol the virtues and importance of service — but today I will not; I would be preaching to the choir. However, how many times has the question been asked: what can be done to encourage more members into service in our groups, Intergroups, Regions and Conference itself? Only to hear the same answers trotted out — "It's down to the sponsors." Well, yes, in part. But surely it's down to all of us. Much like recovery itself, we are the adverts.

Nearly all service positions are documented in the Service Handbook, where it suggests what could be done in a particular position and, in some cases, how it could be done. But these descriptions and suggestions are not boundaries; it's never a tick-box exercise. Doing more is always an option — enthusiastically sharing your experience of a service position at a workshop or convention, encouraging people into service positions. This isn't written anywhere, but the benefit it brings and the difference it makes is real.

In fact, let me put this on record: I will happily speak at any meeting, workshop or Convention on my experience in any of my service positions — just ask me. Like being asked to do any share, I will never say no if there is a way I can do it. Also, if anyone wants to submit a question for Conference in the future, I will happily review it or even help write it to ensure that it stands a good chance of being selected. I would absolutely love it if future CSCs had the issue of too many qualifying questions — I think this can only benefit our Fellowship.

Service in my recovery has given me so much. The last three years at Conference have been incredible for growth. I was blown away when my peers on Committee 6 voted for me to be Chair of the Committee and further blown away a year later to be voted to carry out this great honour. I remember talking with our departed friend Non-Alcoholic Trustee - Tom Fox, saying that I felt such a fraud — "If only they all knew who I was." Tom gently said to me: "That's just it — they don't see who you were; they see who you are now." This allowed me to put away the old me. Not to forget him, just not to set my own baseline on him anymore.

So, where's the Love and Tolerance of Others in this? Well, I think the love is clear — we do service in love of the Fellowship, we do service to give back what we have been given, which aids in the growth of love. On tolerance: I was once told you don't have to like everyone in the Fellowship, but love the alcoholic. To that end, you will not like everyone you come into contact with while doing service, but all service is an opportunity for growth in recovery as is each person you find challenging.

## Unity

"Love and tolerance of others" — like so many other parts of our literature — is often misquoted or used out of context as "Love and tolerance is our code," but it's the "of others" which is missing, and that is so important. Just to quickly put that into context: you will find this on page 84 of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, in Step Ten — doing harms to others and quickly making amends — "then resolutely turning our thoughts to someone we can help. Love and tolerance of others is our code." What follows is: "We have ceased fighting anything or anyone — even alcohol. For by this time sanity will have returned." The context is so important.

Unity was an entirely alien concept to me; it wasn't even in my vocabulary. However, I learned how important the word "we" is in our Fellowship. I cannot do this alone — we can. We have a common cause: we all need to ensure that our Fellowship and our programme are protected and passed on to the still-suffering alcoholic who has a desire to stop drinking. Unity binds us and holds us together.

As I have already mentioned, this theme seemed to be chosen for me based on my experience over my time at Conference. Last year, as Alternate Chair, I didn't think I was going to get another opportunity to speak, so I took the opportunity then to share a couple of insights with regard to the tone of certain questions we reviewed on the CSC last year — how accusatory of the GSO some questions were, and the questioning of the motives of our trusted servants on the General Service Board (the GSB). Sadly, this has not changed this year. As all questions and all responses have been published, we can now all see some of the unnecessary vitriol that is directed at our trusted servants.

As Chair of Conference, I have been privy to every communication with regard to Conference questions and any item related to Conference. Of those that required a response from me directly, I responded — often in consultation with the other members of the CSC; I do not govern! Some of this communication I found very unsavoury, and I am amazed — much as I was with some of the questions — that it would come from members of this Fellowship, much of it was more akin to the type of trolling one has become sadly used to seeing on social media.

Some of the communication directed at the CSC and GSB involved questioners not agreeing with the responses they had received, and some referred to past Conference decisions and a need to overturn them.

In my experience in service, any decision in our Fellowship made by a group and voted on is considered a group conscience, and this has to be respected. I may not like or agree with a particular decision sometimes, but I have to accept it. Tradition Twelve teaches me this. I need to get out of the way. The personality is my negative thought toward a decision I do not agree with. The principle? The group conscience — each alcoholic meeting with a primary purpose to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic, bringing their Higher Power with them to guide them in reaching a decision, much as we will at this Conference weekend.

Of the GSB, I feel I must reiterate the point I made last year.

I was told that when I point the finger, there are always three fingers pointing back at me.

We are all in this together. If there is a problem, it is our problem — it is not solely the GSB's problem. We need to offer helpful suggestions and direction to the GSB, not criticism for things we imagine they have done wrong (and there has been a lot of imagining going on).

All alcoholic members of the GSB had a rock bottom, attended a first meeting, found a sponsor, read the Big Book, went through the Steps, did service at their groups, Intergroups and Region, came to Conference just as you are here now — in fact, look to your left and right: you are potentially looking at a future member of the GSB — and were ultimately nominated by their Regions as their most trusted servants.

So why do some think that Board Trustees would want to undermine the very thing that has saved their lives, and which they continue to need on a daily basis, as we all do? It makes no sense at all to think otherwise.

For all the above — both last year and this — I find myself asking: where's the love in that? Where's the tolerance and understanding? Where's the unity?

The Responsibility Pledge tells me I am responsible whenever anyone, anywhere reaches out for help; I want the hand of AA always to be there. I am responsible for ensuring that unity abides in our Fellowship; I am responsible for calling out what is unacceptable behaviour whenever I see or hear it, and not hiding or expecting someone else to say something; I am responsible for ensuring that our Fellowship continues to grow and adapt in this ever-changing world; I am responsible for ensuring that every newcomer has the opportunity to learn of love and tolerance of others, and to then carry the message to the next still-suffering alcoholic. Unified, together — we are all responsible for this.

### **Introduction of Committee Chairs**

I now have the great pleasure to introduce the Committee Chairs for this year's Conference:

- Committee 1: Mark T – North East Region
- Committee 2: Ian C – Midlands Region
- Committee 3: Cath W– Highlands & Islands Region
- Committee 4: Angela Y – Glasgow Region
- Committee 5: Gary H – Glasgow Region
- Committee 6: Phil S – Eastern Region

As the Chair of the Conference Steering Committee, the CSC, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their diligence and camaraderie in the task of preparing for Conference 2026. I think all of us enjoyed the experience (most of us? Just me?) and we learnt so much in reviewing the 92 questions which were submitted on subjects which covered the length and breadth of the Fellowship. So, thanks to all those who submitted questions, I hope the responses they receive this weekend will repay the effort that has been made in submitting them and reviewing them by all those groups that have taken the time to respond to them.

The sharp eyed amongst you may notice that Dave W who was voted as Chair of Committee 2 is not here, sadly Dave's health is not as consistent as he would like. He felt (and I agreed) that Conference could well be a challenge too far right now for him. Being from the Southwest Region (as am I) Dave has been a great companion and trusted friend during this Conference cycle sharing many long train journeys to and from York and some lovely chatty walks around York (a 2 hour tour of every health food shops in York looking for Vegan toothpaste wasn't a particular high point for me but it won't be quickly forgotten, note to self - all time is good time in good company), he had been the Secretary for the CSC and he will be missed this weekend, love to Dave. Thank you so much to Ian C for agreeing at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to step in as Chair of Committee 2, this is no small task, but I'm sure the committee secretary and other members of the committee will do all they can to support him.

Further to the introduction of the Committee Chairs, I would like to introduce the Committee Secretaries, who aren't sat on this stage because... there's not enough room, so if each of you can make yourself known as I say your names that would be wonderful. The secretaries arguably have the toughest task of the weekend, recording all of your responses, drafting them into the final response (after you have changed your minds at least 20 times) and of course editing the literature questions.

Committee No. 1 Secretary - Julie P (Wales & Borders Region)

Committee No. 2 Secretary - Simon P (South Midlands Region)

Committee No. 3 Secretary - Adam G (London Region North)

Committee No. 4 Secretary - Suzie C (North West Region)

Committee No. 5 Secretary - Phill O (Eastern Region)

Committee No. 6 Secretary - Barry McL (Scotia Region)

Now it is my great pleasure to introduce Gary H of Glasgow Region who is our Alternate Conference Chair and has been a great support throughout the last year, with some sage suggestions and being ever willing to help out where needed particularly in covering for Dave W in producing the final set of CSC minutes, over to you Gary...

## **Conference Steering Committee Report**

Good afternoon, Conference. I'm Gary, and I'm a recovered alcoholic.

It's a real privilege to be here to be able to present the Alternate Chair's Report as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our first Conference back in 1966.

My sober date's 3rd of March 2019, my home group's the Yoker Big Book Group in Glasgow, and I'm a third year delegate from Glasgow Region.

I'm actually pretty gobsmacked to be standing here today - genuinely amazed at how much my life's changed in such a relatively short period of time. I'm so grateful to this beautiful Fellowship, a Fellowship that saved my life and took me from a hospital bed and a psychiatric unit to the incredible life I'm blessed with today.

I came into recovery sort of relatively late in life as I didn't find AA till just before my 57th birthday - I'm 64 now - but I now know I got here when it was my time, when I was ready.

I had to give myself what we describe in Glasgow as "a real doing" before I got here - but I got here, and I'm determined to make the absolute most of my sober life now I am. I'm determined to live life to the full - and anyone who knows me knows that's just what I do. I might be in my mid-sixties but I'm certain my best days are still yet to come.

I'm passionate about recovery, I'm passionate about life and I'm even more passionate about the service we do.

I've had the opportunity to serve as a GSR for my Group at our Intergroup in Glasgow; I've had the privilege of being a Regional Representative for my Intergroup at Glasgow Region; I've served as the Regional Telephone Liaison Officer, sitting on the Scottish National Helpline Committee as part of this; and, I'm currently the Regional Health Liaison Officer where we've been able to take the reach and impact of AA to new places and levels. I'm also a pretty active sponsor and there's genuinely nothing like helping someone through the programme of recovery. It's a magical experience in itself.

I've been pretty busy in service from the get go - and I love it!

When I came to Conference for the first time I was blasé enough to think I knew what I was getting into. I didn't realise the profound effect the experience would have on my recovery and indeed my relationship with the Fellowship. I'm actually sort of jealous about you, red dotters, as you have three Conferences ahead of you whilst this is my last dance! Tell you now though - I'm going to make the most of it, and I hope you all do too.

At last year's Conference I was genuinely privileged to be elected by my delegate peers to Chair Committee 5 this time around, and even more privileged to be elected as Alternate Chair for Conference 2026 by this year's Steering Committee.

Our Conference is primarily a service body and acts as the group conscience of the Fellowship in Great Britain - in case you weren't aware of this. To be honest I wasn't fully in my first year.

The Conference Steering Committee, or CSC, comprises the Conference Chair - Richard who you've heard already - and the Chairs of the six Committees - Mark T, Ian M, Cath W, Angela Y, myself and Phil S - along with two Board Trustees for guidance, continuity and support - that's Angela S and Jim M. Both Trustees were afforded full voting status as members of the Committee reflecting the spirit of the fourth Concept.

The General Secretary and our Conference Co-ordinators also attend all CSC meetings as non-voting members to help provide logistical support and experienced guidance towards the development of the overall Conference agenda and itinerary.

Want to give special mention here to Dave W who formed a big part of the CSC as Secretary and Chair of Committee 2 from the get go but had to drop out of this year's Conference due to ill health. Thanks too to Ian for stepping in last minute as a more than able replacement.

The CSC's terms of reference comprises two main elements - first, the selection of questions for Conference, and the second to ensure that Conference fulfils the purpose devised by our Co-Founders to form part of the system of check and balance to ensure that AA in Great Britain continues to function and thrive in accordance with our Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

The first meeting of the CSC took place online shortly after last year's Conference on 9 May. This was largely an orientation meeting bringing everyone up to speed with the process, our responsibilities and our accountabilities. We took time to review feedback from Conference 2025, review the Tracker on all outstanding matters from the last Conference and consider our approach to what sort of questions we were going to look for this year.

The second meeting of the CSC was held in person at the GSO in York on 5 and 6 September. This was a pretty intense, but very enjoyable, couple of days where every question submitted by the 31 August deadline was reviewed, discussed and debated in detail. From a personal perspective it was so powerful to be part of such a collaborative process working with such good people steeped in our Traditions and Concepts with a room low on ego and full of humility, goodwill and a genuine love for our Fellowship. It was also highly focused on our Primary Purpose - ultimately why we're all here today.

Richard introduced the brilliant theme for this year's Conference at the meeting - LOVE AND TOLERANCE OF OTHERS.

Service has taught me many things but it's certainly allowed me more than enough ground to work on my own love and tolerance - and still does. I try to live in our Primary Purpose as much as possible, but it's amazing how many people try and get in your road doing this! As my sponsor frequently says "Never forget Gary - Recovery's a team sport".

This year we had a record number of 90 questions submitted - up from 85 last year, and 50 the year before that. Going in we had a target of getting this down to 12 - that's 2 per Committee - but as we got into the process it became much more about quality over quantity, and getting down to the stuff the Fellowship really wants to discuss.

Each question was assessed for its suitability against the 12 criteria laid out in the CSC Terms of Reference, and every question was given a fair and reasonable hearing. From this session two questions were accepted as presented, eight questions were accepted on the basis of minor rewording or as composite - that means an amalgamation - of very similar questions. One was referred back to the person raising the question for further information and one was put on the maybe list.

The third meeting of the CSC was again in person in York across 10 and 11 October - the focus being to review the composite and reworded questions and to finalise the agreed questions for Conference. After another intensive session the final 11 questions emerged, and these were allocated to the six Committees on a randomised basis.

Since then two further literature questions have been added by the Literature Committee to complete the overall questions for Conference this year.

Looking at the 90 questions submitted at the end of the process, 13 will make the Conference floor, either in part or in full meaning that 77 questions were not accepted. However, 19 of these questions were referred to the General Service Board, or its Sub-Committees, for further consideration and comment and weren't lost in the ether.

All questions received were given a proper acknowledgement and appropriate explanation from the CSC as to how they had been assessed.

An updated Conference Tracker was also reviewed at this meeting to ensure actions from last year were being followed through on a timely basis - and ahead of this year's Conference.

The fourth and final meeting of the CSC was held online on 6 February where we were joined in part by our Committee Secretaries - the first time this has been done. It was great to have them more engaged in the planning and suggest that this is continued going forward.

The main purpose of this meeting was to finalise our Conference arrangements.

At the meeting we again reviewed the good progress made on the Conference Tracker and considered an update on all TOR 8 matters - that's questions referred to the Board and its Sub-Committees for comment. A discussion was also held around a proposal for a European Service Office which has now been withdrawn from Conference. We also reviewed all the incoming correspondence from the Fellowship as part of the process and considered how best to respond.

The finalised Conference itinerary and agenda were reviewed and approved at the meeting as well.

Thinking forward, we'd encourage future CSC's to build on the transparency and open-ness we've tried to factor into the process this year. We've gone some way on this, but there's always more that could be done.

We'd also like to see future CSC's commit to ensuring at least one question each year is aimed at making Conference more attractive and more effective, and to make this a standing item for consideration.

All this brings us to where we are today - on the brink of what I hope will be a wonderful experience for everyone in the room, and two days of intensive service for our incredible Fellowship. I hope you also get the chance to have a few laughs along the way to make sure we live up to our reputation as "not a glum lot".

Thank you to all my colleagues on the CSC for your fellowship, candour and commitment - I've learned from every single one of you. Thank you to Richard who has been an awesome Chair and thank you, thank you, thank you to all the GSO staff for making this all happen.

I'm really brimming full of gratitude today.

I had no idea of the reach and extent of our remarkable Fellowship when I took up my sponsors challenge to be "all in" on service. To be small part of this is SO exciting but also SO humbling. I hope you all get to feel this too.

From that hospital bed just over seven years ago to being here today ..... This is a real wow moment for me.

Think I'll finish with another few wee Glaswegian phrases -

"S'gonnae be pure dead brilliant this.

So, gaun yoursel!"

God bless and have a belter!

Thank you Gary and I would like to invite Ranjan, General Secretary, to share the Orientation and Conventions. Ranjan will read the orientation, a copy of which had already been given to delegates, covering any lastminute changes, safety information and the National Convention dates which are:

Scottish Convention – 24 – 26 April  
Welsh Convention – 29 - 31 May  
Southern Convention – 18 – 20 September  
Northern Convention – 11 – 14 March 2027

### **Explanation of Voting Procedures**

For the last couple of years Conference has used an electronic voting system rather than the traditional "head count" method. It has largely been a success although there have been a couple of teething issues such as delegates having to sometimes wave their hands in the air to get a vote registered, this year we have an additional receiver and which has been mounted slightly higher so we should not (God willing) experience these issues. When we come to the sessions where voting is

required, you will find an electronic keypad on your seat. 'DO NOT TAKE THEM OUT OF THIS ROOM', please!

When prompted you can select from two options, yes or no, this year it has been voted on by the CSC to remove abstain as an option to keep it simple. Abstaining served no actual purpose. So, it was decided to keep it simple and remove abstain. You still have the option to not vote by just not voting!

Votes will be counted and presented on the graphic behind the stage. GSO staff members will then record these. A quorum of Conference consists of two thirds of all the Conference members registered. The staff member will then calculate any majority or otherwise and pass the result to the Chair of Conference, who will then announce the result.

A simple majority (50% or greater up to two-thirds) is a recommendation to the Board to take any necessary action (but they don't necessarily have to) and a proposal that carries a two thirds majority of the vote is binding on the Board.

### **The Minority View**

#### CONCEPT V

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

In the light of the principle of the "Right of Appeal," all minorities – whether in our staffs, committees, corporate boards, or among the Trustees – should be encouraged to file minority reports whenever they feel a majority to be in considerable error. And when a minority considers an issue to be such a grave one that a mistaken decision could seriously affect AA as a whole, it should then charge itself with the actual duty of presenting a minority report to the Conference.

Therefore, a minority view is not "I do not agree and I want you to know why I don't agree" as had happened on a couple of occasions last year. It is a view which has not been considered as part of a presented response, or a sharing of views in the room, which could gravely affect AA as a whole.

To be clear, as the committee should have heard all views, once a vote is passed, if the gravity has already been pointed out during discussions (either in committee or in this room), please accept the group conscience.

After each vote of a question, I will ask if anyone would like to register a minority view, if they do, then we will hear it. If it is a genuine minority view i.e. could gravely impact AA as a whole, and has not already been heard and therefore considered then I will ask if anyone wants to revote. If one person says yes, then we will revote.

We will not continue to listen to Minority views ad infinitum following revotes, therefore if you have an alternate or additional minority view please let it be known before any vote commences.

If you wish to register a minority view at any other point during the Conference, then please let it be known as I will not be calling for Minority views following these Plenary Session votes. If a minority view is registered and is valid, the same procedure will be followed.

I will remind you of this procedure on Sunday morning, so don't worry if you didn't take that all in.

## **Saturday Evening**

The Saturday evening session will consist of the presentation of the remainder of the General Service Board reports followed by the ever popular Open Forum and Raffle (oh, there's no raffle)...

### **Explanation of Open Forum - (Non-Voting, Non-Recorded Session)**

As you will see from the agenda this is due to take place tomorrow evening between 9 and 10 and it is your opportunity to ask any questions that you may have, particularly if you don't think they are going to be covered anywhere else throughout the weekend. I'm sure that some of you have some questions already, which is great, but if you are wondering why certain things happen the way they do or you don't understand how something works, ask, there's every chance that most people are wondering the same thing. There are no silly questions.

At the completion of the Open Forum, the Committee Reports will be distributed as you leave the hall. Should Regions wish to have an informal discussion about the Committee Reports then they are free to do so.

### **Closing of First Session**

We are now approaching time to start your first committee sessions of this 60<sup>th</sup> Conference and I'll take this opportunity to remind you that we work under the guidance of the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts.

When dealing with any fellowship business it is very important that we best serve the Fellowship by conducting this business in the spirit of love, patience and understanding. After all, "Love and Tolerance of others is our code".

Respect one another, every delegate has an equal and important voice. You are a trusted servant of your region, and you carry the conscience of the groups that you represent in that trusted role, to that end you are expected to speak up, challenge (if appropriate) and offer helpful comment and insight. Whilst there may be debate and differences in committee proceedings, let us always remember Tradition 12 by putting principles before your personalities, as I have heard and read so many times in the last year (it's like someone has been trying to tell me something) 'we can disagree but we do not have to be disagreeable while doing it'.

When voting has concluded on Sunday we will have completed business of Conference which is to transmit the conscience of the fellowship as instructions to the General Service Board to enable the Fellowship to continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic in the most effective way in this ever-changing world.

Please enjoy your time at Conference this weekend, for me, it is still the most educational and rewarding service I have undertaken. It's long and it's tiring but I am sure when it is over you will see how important a process it really is and you yourself will feel the inner (right sized) pride that comes with being part of something bigger than yourself. "It works, it really does".

If you need anything at all or have any questions, please just ask me, it's what I'm here for, I am your servant.

Here's a little thought for you:

"Finally, we begin to see that all people, including ourselves, are to some extent emotionally ill as well as frequently wrong, and then we approach true tolerance and see what real love for our fellows actually means."

Please help me close the session with:

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future:

to place our common welfare first;

to keep our Fellowship united.

For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

And of course, the Serenity Prayer using the word God as you understand it...

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

courage to change the things I can,

and wisdom to know the difference.

Thank you Conference.

## Friday 7.45pm Second Full Session

Richard welcomed everyone back and opened the second full session of Conference at 7.45 pm with a moment's silence to reflect on why we're here and still suffering alcoholic and asked Kevin of Eastern Region to read the Preamble.

Richard du P (South East Region) was asked to read his three favourite Traditions which were: Tradition 2, for our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God, as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. Tradition 5, each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers and Tradition 12, anonymity is a spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Richard then asked for nominations for Conference Chair 2027 before handing over to Jo, Chair of the Board, to introduce the General Service Board Reports.

### **NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIR 2027**

The under mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chair of the Sixty-First General Service Conference 2027:

Gary H	-	Glasgow Region
Suzie C	-	North West Region

The nominees signified their willingness to serve, and each gave a brief summary of their AA service background. The formal election, by way of a modified Third Legacy procedure as recommended by Conference 1998, to take place at the final session of Conference.

### **General Service Board Reports**

#### **Introduction**

(Jo F, Chair GSB)

Hello Conference, my name is Jo and I'm an alcoholic. My current service position is as Chair of the General Service Board. Welcome – everyone!

All Conference delegates, especially red dotters will experience for the first time, the alchemy of Conference, together with our overseas observers this year. They are:

Gunter from Latvia  
Emre from Turkey  
Lidiana from Bulgaria  
Sandor from Hungary  
Pascal from Belgium  
Annette from Denmark  
2 from Ireland - Joanne and Audrey  
Grzegorz from Poland  
Paula from Portugal  
Simona from Czech Republic who dropped in at the last minute

I hope you all find your experience of Conference, and the shared wisdom within these four walls, as profoundly as I did.

Before I go any further, I'd like to thank the Conference Chair, Richard, and this year's Conference Steering Committee for the excellent set of questions, and for the publication of the rejected questions which can be found on the AAGB website. This helps communicate the way Conference works and why. I'd also like to thank the staff from the General Service Office (GSO) who helped us keep the show on the road.

So, for Conference this year, we have an interesting line up of trustee speakers for you...

We have:

- **Emma**, our Honorary Treasurer and Non-Alcoholic Trustee, who will cover Finance
- **Max** is our trustee for Literature and Survey, amongst other things, and she will be doing a double take this year...
  - a) She will take you through the work of the Literature Sub Committee, together with items of literature for your approval
  - b) and then Max will take you through the results and conclusions of our five yearly AA Survey
- **Charon and Ranjan** will cover the question raised at Conference last year, on finding out and reporting back on the feasibility and likely cost of producing an AA video, specifically for men
- **Zelma** – a trustee of the Inclusivity Working Group, will present you with her work and conclusions on Accessibility
- and lastly but not least, **Hamish** is going to explain the excellent work that is being delivered through Probation and Criminal Justice

All the Chairs of the sub-committees are here. If you've found something of interest in their reports, or would be interested in applying to be on a sub-committee - please have a chat with them. They are around throughout the Conference weekend and the sub-committee drop-in session on the Saturday from about 4.30 onwards. It's next to the teas, so you can't miss us!

I look forward to hearing the results of your deliberations on Sunday. I'd now like to hand you back to competent hands of Richard your Conference Chair. So that's it from me – have a great Conference!

## **Finance**

(Emma Gipson – Honorary Treasurer GSB)

Good evening, Conference. This evening, I'm going to give an update on the Annual Report and the financial statements for this previous financial year. I'm going to do a little update on the audit process, do a review of the position compared to the previous years, talk a little bit about the budget for this year, and then talk about the Board and Finance Committee activities and things that we've got going on.

## Overview of Financial Position

Taken from the draft audited Financial Statements:

	2025	2024	Variance
Income	£2,164,299	£1,830,465	£333,834
Expenditure	£2,110,192	£2,063,690	(£46,502)
Surplus/Deficit	£54,107	(£233,225)	£287,332
Investment gain/loss	(£59,737)	£120,236	(£179,973)
Net movement in funds	(£5,630)	(£112,989)	£107,359

We had income of 2.1 million, so that is an improvement against 2024 of 1.8 million. We had an increase of about £300,000 so thank you everybody for your contributions and buying your books and such like. Expenditure, there was a slight increase of £46,000 to 2.1 million. That did leave us in a surplus position on our income and expenditure of £54,000 and that is a vast improvement compared to 2024 where we actually had a deficit of £233,000. We did, however, have a loss on investments and that's more uncontrollable, to some extent, of about £60,000 so that did leave us with a net movement in funds of about a negative £5,000 but again, compared to the previous year of over £100,000 it is a significant improvement.

### Income

	2025	2024
Donations	£1,138,892	£933,531
Literature	£977,883	£852,724
Investment	£47,524	£44,210

In terms of our income. It's made up of three areas, donations, literature and investment. As you'll see, there has been an improvement on all three of those in the financial year, where we've had an increase of about £200,000 on our donations, our literature has gone up by over £100,000 and in investments, there was a marginal increase. So again, thank you. I'm going to keep saying thank you this evening, for your continued support.

## Expenditure

	2025	2024
Purchase of Literature	£385,296	£335,628
Premises Cost	£195,932	£199,101
Postage	£154,930	£130,782
Professional charges	£60,298	£50,295
Irrecoverable VAT	£67,746	£67,686
Telephones	27,254	£27,148
AA Service News	£50,654	£44,160

In terms of our expenditure, I've picked out some key expenditure items. Obviously, the financial statements and the Annual Report have all the expenditure items, but I've picked out a few here.

As to be expected from the increase in sales of literature, our purchase of literature has also gone up. Our premises costs have dropped. That's in part to the movement of office and the change of the rent there. Our postage, obviously, with the increase of literature, has gone up, and then professional charges has gone up slightly. That is in part due to some additional work that we had done by our auditors to just firm some things up. Our recoverable VAT stayed largely the same and so have our telephones and AA Service News has also partially gone up.

## Where do your contributions go?



We have the salaries of the wonderful GSO, NSO and SSO staff, and this Fellowship wouldn't be doing what it's doing without them so that's vital. Any publications and associated distribution costs of items such as AA Service News which continues to be free to the Fellowship. We have the cost of this amazing Conference, which it is not that I don't enjoy Board meetings, but this Conference is the highlight for me as a non-alcoholic trustee. We have the website, office costs, national telephones, First Response Online and Chat Now. All those things are really vital to carrying the message, and then Trustee and Sub Committee expenses for meeting attendance.

## Publications

### Income from Publications

As shown in the accounts includes:-

- Income from Share & Roundabout plus diaries and calendars and all other 'listed' literature sold

- Income from publications was:- £977,883

### Direct Cost of Publications

- External printing, Share and Roundabout

- Purchasing of Literature costs:- £385,296

Indirect Cost of Publications £546,028

LESS

- Cost of Publications = £931,324

- Income from publications = £977,883

- Surplus = £46,559 (4.7% of income)

**•Our literature stock is only of value to AA**

We've had, income this year, as I've already said, just shy of a million, with direct cost of publications being £385,000. There's also an indirect cost of publications as well, that's things like salaries of staff for keeping the inventory and all that kind of stuff. That has left us in a surplus position on our income from our publications of £46,000 so it's 4.7% of the income that we've had from our publications. I'm highlighting that because it's amazing that we're getting the literature out there and the message is being carried, but it's not as much money coming in for those things such as telephones and Chat Now, because we've got all of those costs associated with that. Keep buying the literature, because obviously that's so vital for carrying the message.

## What are the indirect costs associated with Publication sales

- Storage of literature
- Importing books from America & Cost of damaged literature
- Stationery, Internal Printing(ink) & Photocopying
- Postage & Packaging
- Staff and associated premises overheads
- P.I. Leaflets, Free Literature, Confidential Directory
- Group Treasurers Cashbook, Illustrated Literature Catalogue
- Conference Reports (Preliminary & Final.)

Some of the indirect costs associated with publication sales, as I said, we've got the storage and importing books from America. We have damaged literature that obviously we can't sell, stationery, internal printing, photocopying, that kind of thing. Postage and packaging, staff and associated premises costs in terms of storage of that literature, and then the free literature - cashbooks, conference reports etc. There's an awful lot of printing that happens in terms of the conference reports this weekend.

## Our Reserves

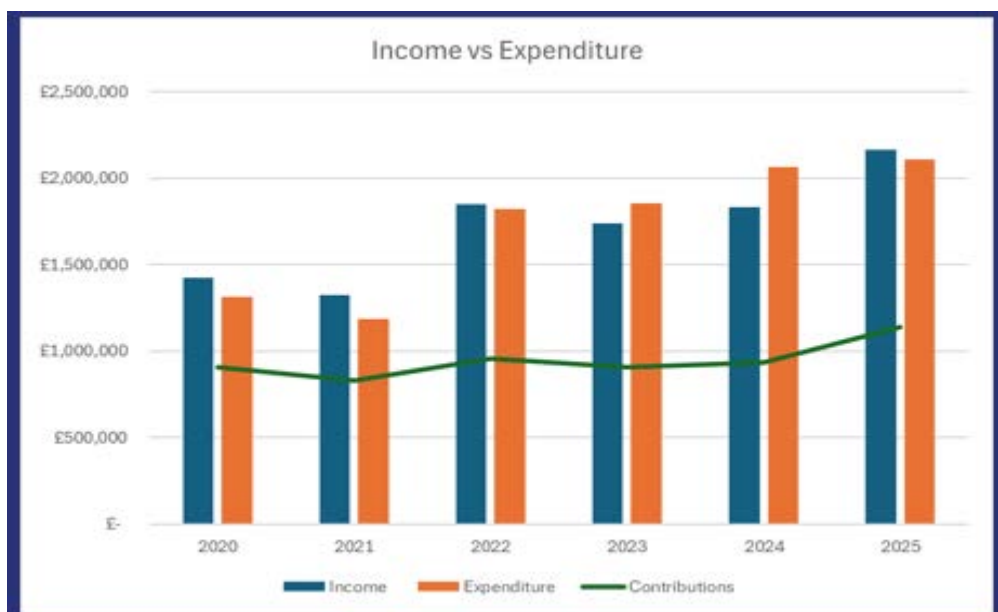
Concept 12 - Warranty Two: Sufficient operating funds plus an ample reserve should be its prudent financial principle  
Ample Reserve held by the charity should exceed 1 year's expenditure  
Sufficient Operating funds are considered to be one quarter's expenditure  
Giving a total Free (Prudent) Reserve of over 1.25 year's expenditure.  
AA & CC recommended practice.

I'm sure everybody in the room has read Concept 12, Warranty Two. Sufficient operating funds plus an ample reserve should be its prudent financial principle. The ample reserve held by the Charity should exceed one year's expenditure and sufficient operating funds are considered to be one quarter's expenditure, which gives us a free prudent Reserve of 1.25. This is our recommended practice. It is a previous Charities Commission recommendation, although they do not actually have that recommendation anymore.

Requirement for the new financial year – based on 24/25 financial statements	1.25 x £2,055,308 = £2,569,135
Net Assets (including restricted funds of £169,582)	£2,518,003
W2 Reserves = Net assets – restricted funds – Stock – Debtors (Cash +Deposits Investments)	£2,146,366
Starting W2 deficit 2025/2026	£422,769

In terms of where we finished the financial year at September 2025, we do have a deficit of £422,000 which does seem high, but what I will say, to jump ahead to a later slide, is that we are in an improving position following the appeal letter to the Fellowship. So, in terms of that, we are not meeting our Warranty Two, but we are still in a relatively stable position, and it is improved on the previous year as well.

### Analysis of financial position



You will see that the contributions have remained largely stable. But overall, our income and expenditure has increased, obviously, particularly in the last couple of years with cost-of-living costs continuing to increase.

### Audit process

This is our third year with our current auditors. They were appointed three years ago after a very thorough audit process. It is an incredibly exhaustive process. If you speak to Mandy or Ranjan, they'll tell you just how much the auditors are looking at, how many transactions they're looking at, the invoices and everything. They are incredibly thorough with the work that they do.

They also do a detailed review of transactions where they're doing data analytics, looking at 100% of transactions, looking for possible anomalies and questions, and so they can actually really hone in on the things that we're doing. They do provide recommendations to the Board on control improvements, which we take incredibly seriously and follow up and work on.

And as I've said, they do data analytics. They also provide sector advice and guidance to us on changes that are happening, of which there is a lot coming down the lane in the next couple of years.

They review our financial position as well, to give us an opinion on going concern and going concern sounds concerning, but effectively, if you're operating as a going concern that means you are going to operate for at least the next 12 months. And they have to do a lot of work on that, as auditors, to be able to sign that opinion ongoing concern. And effectively, they are content that AA is going to continue as it is for the next 12 months. So that's really positive news to know that we're that stable.

Finally, in terms of the final analysis of our financial position over the past 12 months, our expenditure has risen by about 3% with income increases of 18% and our split of income has remained consistent year on year, with publications making about 46% of our income that has trickled up over the past few years, where publications is more of a bulk of our income now, but it has stabled out the past couple of years.

### **Board and Finance Committee Actions**

Some of the things that the Board and Finance Committee are doing over the next 12-18 months, two years:

- Strengthening our finance committee with new members who have wide business and cost management experience
- Annual review of literature costs but ensuring we keep costs as low as possible to Fellowship
- Specific reviews of both postage and AASN to ensure continued value to the Fellowship
- Reviewing policies and procedures regularly to ensure compliance with legislation and best practice in charity sector
- Reviewing processes for reporting changes in two years

There are some changes to the way things have to be reported two years from now and, to ensure that there is not a huge change in two years that will just panic everybody in the Fellowship, we're looking at that now, to ensure that that transition is done, that everybody's aware of why we're doing this, and it's definitely not going to be a decision that we would ever make on our own, that there is changes, that we're just going to make sure that that transition is appropriately made to the Fellowship.

### **Budget 2025/26**

- Expenditure based budget looking at our known costs, estimated costs (such as publications) and known increases
- Expected expenditure of £2.2m
- Continued monitoring of actuals vs budget
- Income remains our greatest unknown

We have an expenditure-based budget, which effectively looks at our known costs and our estimated costs and any possible increases. We look at the known inflationary increases, anything that may have been approved by conference, and how that may be costed out and including that within our budget. That means we've got expected expenditure this year of about 2.2 million.

We continue to monitor our actuals against our budget, but the income remains our greatest unknown. The vast majority of our expenditure is fixed. It's things like the salaries, it's the website, those kind of things and it's almost 90% that is fixed. Our largest unknown on our budget is always income so that's

always the question mark in our budget, but we do know that our expenditure should be around 2.2 million this year, pending any disasters.

### **Appeal letter**

Towards the end of the financial year, we sent out an appeal letter to the Fellowship. We did that because of the balance of our free reserves, so the cash that we had in the bank, it was beginning to get, I don't say low, because that sounds a bit panicky, but it was something that we were aware of.

Our contributions have not risen as fast as inflation in the past few years and we are below our Prudent Reserve/W2 position.

Has it worked? Yes, it's gone an incredibly long way and I want to thank everybody in the Fellowship for that. You really stepped up, so thank you. It has really helped, however, we are still below our prudent reserve position, but we are in a much healthier position.

### **The Way Forward**

Obviously, the message is, as the message is every year, please continue to ensure your contributions pass through the structure in a timely manner.

Costs are increasing at all levels. Rents are going up. Costs for PI at intergroup, group, region level are going up, so please ensure, through all levels of the structure, to pass your contributions through in a timely manner, because we're all here to carry that message and to keep carrying that message.

We will be reviewing the conference question relation to finance. I'm very excited to hear the debates and comments in relation to that and if there's any GSB action, obviously we will take it as needed.

As I've already said, cost of living continues to affect all levels of the structure, and we are aware that groups, intergroups and regions may be struggling with increased costs and reduced contributions.

I just want to say a personal thank you. There are a lot of trustees rotating out of which two have been on the Finance Committee. We have John, you're in the room, and also Andrina, they have been incredibly supportive for me in this role as Honorary Treasurer and I'm going to miss them both immensely, because they have been incredible.

I would also like to thank all of the GSO staff, particularly Mandy and Ranjan, who worked tirelessly helping with finance and to all of the Trustees, because they're incredible and they're a great bunch of people to work with. And finally, I would like to thank all of you for listening to me.

## **European Service Office Proposal**

**(Levey P and Ranjan B)**

Good evening. I'm an alcoholic. My name is Levey, and I just want to give you a brief update on the European Service Office proposal. Based on feedback from Continental European Region and the Fellowship as a whole, we decided to withdraw the proposal because the Fellowship felt they didn't have all the viable information to make an informed decision.

The General Service Board will revisit this topic and provide the necessary information to the Fellowship so that they can make an informed decision at local levels, which then can be brought to the following conference for deliberation.

To give a little background to all this, I did some research, and I found that when the Southern and the Northern offices were established as part of GSO York, it happened in the form of an open discussion at Conference, during the plenary session, and did not come about as a Conference question and you can find this in the conference reports, which are on the website. 1966 to 1998 are kind of bunched together, but you can find it on page 963 through 966, and if you want this information, you can come find me later, and I'll give you all the details.

Both of these recommendations had the majority support of the Fellowship based on information that was provided by GSB at that time, and at that time, Conference also recommended that any other recommendations from the General Service Board to establish any other office be presented to Conference for discussion. So that's what we're going to do. We're going to revisit it, and then we're going to bring back the group conscience based on viable information that they requested, so that you can make an informed decision.

## **Men's Video Proposal**

**(Working Group: Charon B and Ranjan B)**

Hi Conference, my name is Charon and I'm an alcoholic. Last year, Conference tasked the General Service Board with exploring the costs and viability of making a short video attracting men to the fellowship.

So Ranjan and I formed a working group, and we went off to find out about that and we've come back with these results.

We met a very interesting filmmaker. We've seen some of his work. We can't show that to you, but it's really interesting work, really good high standard work and really the sort of thing that we feel would complement what we like in AA.

He has given us this proposal to create a film 9 to 11 minutes long, which is longer than we would normally have, but within the costs of this he would make shorter pieces that would be taken out of that film that could easily be used for presentations, social media, should we go that route. We can use them for all sorts of other things.

The budget would be £9000 and its high impact storytelling on a low budget. He is local to here, Halifax, he works at a local film college and when he's on a job, he uses his students so that they get work experience and we get really, really high end work done at very, very reduced costs.

So that's the job we were asked to do, and that's what we've done. You can have a film, short film, attracting men into the Fellowship for £9000.

***After full discussion, Conference was asked if they would like the General Service Board to proceed with the creation of the video, as per the Conference question last year and this was passed with a simple majority.***

## Survey

(Max J)

I'm Max, alcoholic and chair of the Survey Sub Committee.

### Background

The 2025 Membership Survey conducted by Marketing Means on behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain (AAGB) provides a comprehensive analysis of AA's membership and group-level dynamics.

The survey has been conducted since 1972 to ensure that the Fellowship is achieving its primary purpose – to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

I did go back through the Conference documents, 1966 to 90 something and I found the actual report from the 1972 Conference. It was in April 72 held at the Midland Hotel Manchester. I wish it still was. It's a bit nearer to home. The wording used was that it was going to be a fact finding survey, a questionnaire, to supply statistics to the Board and the aim was to provide AA with statistical information about itself, in particular, the channels through which the AA message reached potential members and the time people had been in AA and the average members and so on. So, nothing's changed since 1972 when it was introduced.

In 2020, the survey was for the first time conducted online, and as this was a success and more efficient, it was repeated in 2025.

2020 the first time that English speaking Continental Europe was included.

The survey gives us the opportunity to understand trends in membership, sobriety duration, meeting attendance and spirituality and also highlights any perceived challenges faced by AA groups, such as declining attendance and financial self-sufficiency.

The survey, conducted primarily online, but with paper copies available if required, achieved a response rate of:

- 32.2% for groups (5,147 registered) and collected 3,335 individual member responses.
- This is a very slight decrease on the responses from 2020

### Demographics

For the first time, females outnumber males, 53% versus 47 last year, and in the last survey 2020 it was the reverse. When we started in 1972 it was 22% female, 78% male.

The age profile continues to shift older. 65% aged over 50, compared to 62% in 2020.

Ethnicity - 96% of members identify as white, significantly higher than the national average of 82% and that was taken from the last census, which was combined with Scotland's as well. That was so it was the 2021 census, and combined with Scotland in 2022 and that's where the 82% came from.

Employment - 58% of members are in work, and 28% are retired.

## Members

Before I go into this next bit about the members, there's been a lot of thought and care gone into drawing out the key themes from this data. As with any survey like this, the balance of responses across the regions can shape the overall picture, so some of the findings are indicative, rather than definitive. We've got 16 regions, and geographically, they're very different, so we need to bear in mind that this is the average that we're looking at.

**Length of sobriety:** 42% of members have been sober for over 10 years, with 24% maintaining sobriety for at least two years.

**Meeting Attendance:** The average attendance frequency is 3.04 times per week, slightly lower than the 2020 figure of 3.4 but consistent with pre-COVID levels.

**Sources of Awareness:** The top ways members first heard about AA include:

- existing group members 24%
- treatment centres 14%
- telephone helplines 9%

**Recovery Support:** Key aspects supporting recovery include:

- attending regular meetings: 91%
- working the 12 Steps: 86%
- acceptance: 79%

## Group Level

### Group Roles:

- 91% of groups have a Chairperson/Secretary
- 80% have a Treasurer
- 91% have a GSR

**Attendance Trends:** Average attendance at the group's latest meeting was 18, slightly higher than 2020 figures.

**Newcomers:** Groups reported an average of 9 newcomers per month but that's the average across all regions. Highlands and Islands, for example, reported 1.6 newcomers a month, and CER 16. So, we have to balance that out.

**Self-Sufficiency:** 66% of groups reported being comfortably self-supporting, although declining attendance remains the primary threat to financial stability.

**Group Formats:** over 71% of groups are face-to-face, 16% online and 13% hybrid, but again, using CER as an example, it's 51% face to face, 26% online, and 22 hybrid. So, this is a sort of snapshot across all 16 regions.

## Spirituality

90% of members declared themselves spiritual.

94% of members stated that they had a Higher Power.

In terms of the form their Higher Power takes:

- Spiritual: 57%
- Nature: 11%
- Religious: 14%
- AA Group: 6%
- Other: 12%

## **Observations**

### **Mental Health:**

- 42% of members reported being diagnosed with a mental health condition other than alcoholism, with depression and anxiety being the most common.

### **Professional Outreach:**

- 69% of members have informed professionals about AA as a solution to alcoholism, highlighting the importance of professional partnerships.

## **Next Steps**

The full survey will be published on our website.

The survey results are shown by region so sub committees, working groups and officers will be able to scrutinise their results.

The Survey Sub Committee is happy to help with the interpretation of any of the results and to explore any aspect in more detail.

The Survey Sub Committee has started to scope the next survey (2030) and will work on an options paper to present to the General Service Board. It will continue to work on the 2025 outcomes and that data is owned by the Fellowship which is why the whole report is going on the website.

Thank you.

## **Time was given at the end of each presentation for comments and questions from the floor.**

Richard closed the second full session by saying “that's the end of the first day. I've got a little something to leave you with. ‘We are people who normally do not mix, but there exists among us a fellowship of a friendliness and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful’.

Using the word God as you understand it, God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to Know the difference. Thank you Conference, see you tomorrow”.

## SATURDAY EVENING

### Continuation of General Service Board Reports

Richard welcomed everyone back and hoped it has been an enjoyable day for all, exchanging and sometimes debating, views with Love and Tolerance to reach an unanimity on each of the questions the committees have had to respond to.

Please can we have a moments silence to remember why we are here and the still suffering alcoholic and invited Pragnya G (GSB Elect) to read the Preamble and Gunter, observer from Latvia, to read her three favourite Traditions - 1, 2 & 5.

Max was asked to commence the continuation of General Service Board reports.

### Literature

(Max J)

Good evening conference. My name is Max. I'm an alcoholic. I'm the trustee for Midlands Region, and I'm the Chair of the Literature Sub Committee, and it's a pleasure to be here tonight.

#### Literature Sub Committee

The Literature Sub Committee is responsible for drafting new, as well as revising existing AA literature.

We regularly collaborate with other service disciplines by working with them to review and update content.

All new and revised literature is presented to Conference for approval.

#### Items for Conference Approval 2026:

1. CSC Template for insertion to pamphlet 'General Service Conference' - new template
2. Membership Survey 2025 - new pamphlet
3. More Than Money - new pamphlet
4. 12 Steppers - revised pamphlet
5. LGBTQIA+ Voices in AA - new pamphlet
6. The AA Archives – revised pamphlet
7. Custody - new pamphlet
8. A Message for Professionals - revised pamphlet
9. Sponsorship Your Questions Answered - revised pamphlet
10. The Pot - revised pamphlet

For all the above items, feedback has been received from the Fellowship and considered.

The first item is the **CSC Template**, which is for insertion into the General Service Conference pamphlet we've got. So, it's a new template going into an existing pamphlet. Feedback was considered by all relevant parties, and it was decided to leave this as is. So, we're voting on the document that you had in your packs that were sent out in December.

***Conference approved the above pamphlet with a two-thirds plus majority.***

Item 2 – **Membership Survey 2025** which is a new pamphlet. I'm afraid this is over three pages, it's just the way it's come out, but the suggested revisions that have come back from the Fellowship, which have been considered and implemented or suggested.

On the cover, remove and English Speaking Continental Europe and change that to put AAGB in brackets and throughout the pamphlet.

In the title, change 'disseminate' to 'carry' and delete 'to the still suffering alcoholic' so it will read, 'helping us to carry our message of recovery', which is much simpler.

The next change was the part on Introduction to AA. It wasn't consistent with 'through' going along the list. So, the through is now at the top where we had through. It's been deleted and the start of the sentence capitalised, and a typo at the bottom:

### **INTRODUCTION TO AA**

**Through:**

~~Through~~ Existing group member %

~~Through~~ A treatment centre %

Telephone helpline %

~~Through my~~ GP / health professional %

Internet %

Heard about it on TV/radio %

Saw a notice about meetings %

Meeting finder app %

~~Through~~ Social media %

Al-anon or Al-ateen or any other 12 step programme %

~~Through P~~ Probation/prison service %

'Chat now' function/email %

Church or other ~~e~~ clergy (Priest, Imam, etc.) %

The last changes were in the part About AA:

### **ABOUT AA**

~~With AA has~~ an estimated membership of over two million, attending more than 123,000 AA groups in approximately 180 countries, ~~AA is a global phenomenon~~. In AAGB there are approximately 5,500 meetings, both face-to-face and online.

In 2025, a sample of 3,335 AA members from AAGB participated in a membership survey, which has been conducted since 1972 by the General Service Board.

AAGB carries out the survey to inform its members of current trends in membership characteristics. The survey also provides information about AA to the professional community and the general public, as part of AA's primary purpose, of helping those experiencing problems with alcohol.

***Conference unanimously approved the above pamphlet.***

Item 3 – **More than Money** which is a new pamphlet. We had feedback, again from the fellowship that was well considered and suggested:

**Page 2:** typo – 'mund' to 'mind'

**Page 3:** Insert email:help@aa.org.uk

#### **Page 4: There is a solution**

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is a worldwide fellowship ~~of men and women who~~ helping each other to stay sober. We offer the same help to anyone who has a drinking problem and wants to do something about it.

Since we are ex problem drinkers ourselves we know what it feels like and we have learned that there is a solution to our problem, in AA.

“From experience, I’ve realised that I can not go back and make a brand-new start. But through AA, I can start from now and make a brand new end.”

***Conference approved the above pamphlet with a two-thirds plus majority.***

Item 4 – **12 Steppers** which is a revised pamphlet and again feedback was received and the insertion:

#### **Page 4 – Additional Information**

*Suggested addition in red:*

You will find more information on the AA website via Members-Service-Disciplines-Telephones or contact your home group GSR or your local intergroup’s telephone liaison officer

#### **Chapter 7 Working With Others - Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book**

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

***Conference approved the above pamphlet with a two-thirds plus majority.***

Item 5 - **LGBTQIA+ Voices in AA** which is a new pamphlet, and we did have some feedback from the Fellowship, which was considered, but the pamphlet is to remain as is.

***Conference approved the above pamphlet with a two-thirds plus majority.***

Item 6 – **The AA Archives** which is a revised pamphlet. There was no feedback for this pamphlet but there’s just a language localisation to correct – “organized” to **“organised”**.

***Conference approved the above pamphlet with a two-thirds plus majority.***

Item 7 – **Custody** which is a new pamphlet. Following feedback, we propose deleting ‘does not have any’ and replacing with ‘has no’ so the sentence will now read:

Alcoholics Anonymous is self supporting and has no ties with any other organisation.

***Conference approved the above pamphlet with a two-thirds plus majority.***

Item 8 – **A Message for Professionals** which is a revised pamphlet. We had quite a bit of feedback on this, which was considered, discussed at great length, and we propose the following change to insert at the beginning of paragraph two:

#### **Page 3: Is there a typical alcoholic?**

*Insert at beginning of para 2:*

**What alcoholics have in common is that they cannot control their drinking once they start and cannot maintain complete abstinence even when they want to unless they accept help. Alcoholism affects people from all sorts of backgrounds.**

Para 2 – now:

What alcoholics have in common is that they cannot control their drinking once they start and cannot maintain complete abstinence even when they want to unless they accept help. Alcoholism affects people from all sorts of backgrounds. Patterns of drinking differ significantly from person to person. Alcoholism can include all types of problem drinking and affects people from all sorts of backgrounds. Alcoholics are adept at denying they have a problem. In the beginning almost all think they do not belong and are unsuitable for membership of AA. It is not until they find themselves attending meetings and hearing other people sharing their experience that they realise how similar they are to their own.

***Conference approved the above pamphlet with a two-thirds plus majority.***

Item 9 - **Sponsorship Your Questions Answered** which is a revised pamphlet. Following feedback the following changes were made:

#### **Page 1: What is Sponsorship?**

**Essentially**, Sponsorship is where one alcoholic who has made some progress in the **AA 12 step** recovery programme shares that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is trying to stay sober. . Most present members of AA owe their sobriety in large part to ~~the fact that~~ someone **who** took a special interest in them and was willing to share a gift with them.

Will now read:

**Sponsorship is where one alcoholic who has made some progress in the AA 12 step recovery programme shares that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is trying to stay sober. Most present members of AA owe their sobriety, in large part, to someone who took a special interest in them and was willing to share a gift with them.**

***Conference approved the above pamphlet with a two-thirds plus majority.***

#### **Minority Opinion**

The screen does not show another amendment, which was recommended by Conference last year in error under How should a sponsor be chosen? The Sub Committee's decided to add safeguarding issues to how I choose a sponsor. My region is adamant, is categorically adamant, that safeguarding is a government legislation which does not apply to Alcoholics Anonymous, never has and never will, and it should not have been added. But also you've misled the plenary by not showing that amendment on screen, and so that vote is uninformed and misinformed and it should never have taken place, so we should have a revote once you've been able to show us that amendment on screen, that was a failing on the part of the literature trustee.

Item 10 – **The Pot** which is a revised pamphlet. It was picked up because small changes were required. The prudent reserve was incorrect, it says one year, and it should have been 1.25 and also the one-off contribution, by way of a legacy, was also incorrect, that changed in 2024 from £10,000 pounds to £20,000. There will be a reprint to reflect these changes, if the demand is there for the pamphlet.

However, feedback received from the Fellowship indicates that there is further work to do on this pamphlet. So, in consultation with the Honorary Treasurer, Regional Treasurers and the Finance Committee, this pamphlet is being withdrawn from this Conference for approval, and it will be presented at Conference 2027.

## Literature Sub Committee Activity 2025/6

This is the Board report for the Literature Sub Committee and activity for the last year:

- Updated Structure and Service Handbooks following items approved at Conference
- Published the 2025 Conference approved literature for circulation across the Fellowship
- Worked with relevant sub committees on the current plenary items shown this year
- Reviewed literature items prior to reprint - for gender-neutral language, contact details and applying the AA family look
- Supported GSB sub committees for their pamphlets and Service / Structure Handbook chapter revisions

## The year ahead – 2026/2027

The work ahead of us:

- The Pot
- Literature items recommended by Conference 2026
- Continue to review items currently in circulation for any changes or updates
- Any service discipline document changes as requested by Sub Committees

I just want to say thank you to all the team for their hard work:

Eric L  
Frank C  
Gabriel S  
Ian C  
Jemma E  
Pragnya G  
Zelma K  
John S and Sean N who were present for part of the year

Thank you also to all the sub committees we have worked with.

Thank you.

## Accessibility

(Zelma K)

Good evening, everyone. I'm Zelma and I'm an alcoholic. I'm here today to talk to you about the accessibility side of the Inclusivity Committee. You might look at me and think, Oh, why? Why is she representing the accessibility side of the committee. Just a little bit of background about myself and why I asked, could I be on this working group.

In 2006 I was diagnosed with MS and at that time I was just so devastated. I thought I was going to end up in the corner sitting there blubbing and I was too afraid to tell anyone in AA, because I thought that they would just pity me and they would look at me differently, and that had quite an impact on me. It took me some time to be able to tell my friends about my diagnosis. I look great today, sometimes I walk with sticks, sometimes I can hardly move and there's lots of other hidden things that go on with me. Sometimes I fall asleep in meetings because I'm just so tired and that is why I wanted to be on the Accessibility Working Group.

## Who We Are

The Inclusivity Working Groups cover three areas – Race2day, LGBTQIA+ and Accessibility.

Today we will talk about the Accessibility section. Taking into consideration the following:

- Traditions 3 & 5
- The right to Belong and Participate
- Concepts 1,2 & 4: Inclusion is the Key

**Equality** means giving everyone the same opportunities and resources.

Everyone receives the same support, regardless of background, ability, or circumstance.

**Equity** recognises that people start from different places and provides the resources and support needed to achieve comparable outcomes. It adjusts support so that people can reach a fair level of participation or success.

**Fairness** is about meeting people where they are and responding to their individual circumstances. Fairness is the principle that underpins equity.

**We are not trying to be special, different or exclusive, just making AA inclusive for everyone.**

### Who and what do we cover?

During the 75th National Convention (June 2022) we were made aware that one of the lifts was out of order. Due to this, physically challenged members were unable to attend all the meetings they wished to. A lesson learnt from this is that not all meetings are accessible to many of our members.

The Inclusivity WG was formed in 2024 with the first meeting of the Accessibility Working Group September 2024.

We started to look at what Accessibility means and the difficulties it presents, this covers so many different aspects and the first ones that jumped out to us were, hearing and sight impairments, Neurodiverse and physical difficulties. However, once we started talking about these, we found that the list is extensive.

We decided to work within the strengths of the members of our Working Group.

Our members have knowledge of deaf, blind, Neurodiverse and physical access needs so decided to start with what we know.

These are some of the suggestions we have in how to ease and encourage all people wishing to attend AA meetings to be able to do so.

### Things to consider when setting up a meeting

#### Deaf and Hard of Hearing

##### For in person meetings:

- Accessibility checklist to include whether meetings have hearing loops that work well.
- Step free meetings if possible.

- Allowing them to sit where they choose would be most beneficial (e.g. at the front to lipread) a circle is preferable.
- Make greeters aware of what to do.

#### **Online meetings:**

- Encourage people to have their camera on for lipreaders
- Zoom has the subtitle option within the online settings
- Ensure chat function is enabled (to reach hosts of the meeting)

Currently only have one meeting online per week with BSL interpreters – this can be difficult for newcomers.

90 meetings in 90 days language does not apply for Deaf members - would take almost a year and a half to achieve 90 meetings.

Interpreters should always be proper registered interpreters - Deaf people deserve to have the message of recovery carried accurately. This applies for all meetings (in person/online) and conventions.

Agencies are preferred as they can cover for illness/cover

#### **Visual Impairment**

- Offer a verbal greeting and introduce yourself clearly.
- Ask if they'd like assistance finding a seat — don't assume.
- Give a brief orientation to the room layout: "The chairs are in a circle, the tea table is to your left, the toilets are behind you."
- If the meeting moves rooms or layouts often, let them know in advance when possible
- Good contrast, well-lit helps
- Read all materials aloud, including Preamble, Readings, Announcements, Notices on screens or posters avoid saying "It's on the screen" or "You can read it on the sheet."
- When speaking directly to them, say their name so they know you're addressing them.
- If passing items (chips, baskets), explain what's happening.
- Make greeters aware of what to do.

#### **Physical Access**

- Disabled toilet
- Adequate parking close by
- Ramp (where needed)
- Level access, allowing for wheelchair users, mobility scooters, walkers / people using walking sticks etc.
- Ensure chairs are well spaced in meeting, allowing room for anyone using walking aids or wheelchairs
- Where possible, have varied chairs, i.e. some chairs with arms would be beneficial, allowing people with limited mobility to be able to sit down and get up again
- Ensure all entrance ways, doors and corridors uncluttered and wide enough and for people using walking aids and wheelchair users to be able to access the meeting
- Avoid heavy doors
- Have patience

We came across an example in Swansea, we had a meeting, which was on our Where to Find as being disabled accessible. Yes, meeting was accessible, but there were no disabled toilets, so always bear that in mind as well, little things like that can be so important.

### **Neurodiverse**

- Routine (running order is important)
- Low lighting
- Windows in room
- No strong smells
- Temperature of room
- Respect personal space (not everyone likes to hold hands or hug, ask first)
- Keep shares to within a time limit
- Patience some members might not be able to sit still for all the meeting, Fidget spinners or walking around could help

### **General**

Look at the Accessibility Checklist. This is a Conference-approved pamphlet that is available online: it helps groups to consider how to make their meeting more accessible and is a really useful tool for improving access at group level.

<https://www.aa.org/accessibilities-checklist-meetings-and-groups>

What3words helps everyone - A precise three-word address that's more accurate than a postcode, helping people find meeting locations easily.

Change meeting slips and the AA Where to find to show as much information as possible so our members know which meetings would be friendly for them and what facilities are available.

There's a space on the registration and update meeting form that you submit to GSO which can be filled in with other information. Meetings should be aware that you can put a lot of information in there, which we might not have symbols for or any other space, making it easy for people to just look at that and check – yes, there are hearing loop there, yes, there are disabled toilets there. There are so many different things, for example, there is parking at so and so with disabled parking spots.

Either before or after the meeting adequate provision should be made for all people, including those with additional needs, to discuss their sobriety with other members.

Sometimes it might include somewhere to sit down after the meeting, because not all members can stand for very long.

These are just some of the suggestions we think you will find helpful.

Just because we are a little bit different from you doesn't mean that we should be treated without the patience, kindness and respect we show anyone walking through the door to an AA meeting.

We are still looking for some areas that would be an asset to this working group and if you think you could help please contact [AAInformation@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:AAInformation@gsogb.org.uk)

Would you like to write a story of you experience and any difficulties or gains you might have had because we would love to hear from you at the above email, because we need a meeting just as much as anyone else. Please help us do that.

Thank you.

## **Probation & Community Justice**

**(Hamish McS)**

Hello Conference, I'm Hamish an alcoholic. Today, I've been asked to give you an overview of the service work that's been accomplished in Probation and Community Justice Service discipline.

There's particular importance when we look at the numbers of people who are involved in the justice system who are not aware of, or are perhaps misinformed, as to what Alcoholics Anonymous is and what we can and cannot do. Many professionals like to use the term continuity of care. My experience is that we, as non-professional members, through our primary purpose of a great responsibility to offer all alcoholics continuity of recovery and this forms the basis of my presentation, along with the Conference theme of Love and Tolerance.

### **Our National Role**

To assist the General service Board in fulfilling the conscience of the Fellowship as expressed through conference. This includes:

Raising awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous and its services through cooperation with Probation/Community Justice agencies at a national level, thereby furthering our primary purpose.

We are tasked to adhere to the GSB Safeguarding policy as published on the AAGB website and provide guidance to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous on safeguarding guidance.

Share experience and information in AA and support our members in their service roles.

We co-operate with Community Justice Agencies to encourage recovery from alcoholism.

\* Note from Handbook, Co-operation with the Probation Service, social work services, approved premises previously known as bail hostels, courts, police forces and legal professionals are included in the remit of Probation/Community Justice Services Liaison Officers. It's a wide remit with a lot of different areas of work that can be done there.

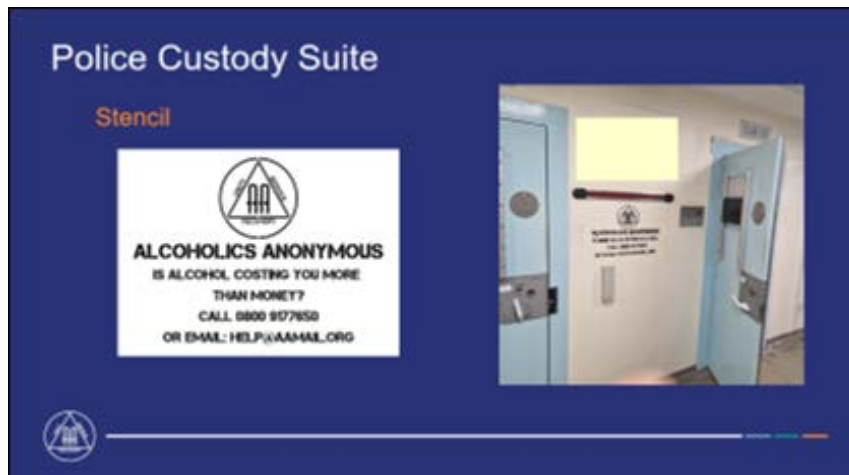
Our theme this year and our Responsibility statement supports this wonderful all-inclusive quote from Bill W:

*"What you are trying to be....not what you were – is all that counts with us." Bill W Letter 1949*

Love and tolerance of others is our code.

Other things that we've been doing as part of the wider remit of the Sub Committee is presentations to Kenya and Portugal. Recently, in the past six months, we've had connections with Ukraine, Bulgaria and Poland directly about Probation/Community Justice work as well.

So, I'm just going to give you some examples of some of the work that's been going on. This is a couple of pictures from police custody suites in London:



AA is Portable, it goes with the person recognising this and the potential opportunity to reach still suffering alcoholics when they are a 'captive audience' This service initiative started in London Region North with City of London Police at Bishopsgate and stencils were produced and put up in the cells. Since then, the Met has since approved the stencils in principle and let the Custody Sergeants organise this in their time. Brixton, Wandsworth and Southwark Police Stations now have the stencils rolled out there was well.

This has continued to be developed and there are now presentations as part of the training for Met Police project called ADDER, (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) - at Hendon Training Academy and links with the Health Care Practitioners (Eoin Bradley) at Charing Cross & Brixton Police Stations.

It's a great example of LRN & LRS LO's and Intergroups working together. The two regional liaison officers, Anne and Russell, have done some great work with that, and they've been supported directly by David and Adam from the Sub Committee.

It's also had an influence in Scotland and that the Positive Outcomes Project in Glasgow are interested in this work and are aware of it, and hopefully may take it up in police stations and custody suites in Scotland.



Richard Scullion who is a great friend of AA and, until recently was a custody sergeant, wrote this article which was published in the national police magazine 'Going Equipped' distributed through

Police networks and copies are available on our website to download in the members section under Probation / Community Justice.

The Sub Committee are in contact with Police Inspector Deborah Brady, who's taken over from Richard, so we hope to continue to be able to encourage that service work there.

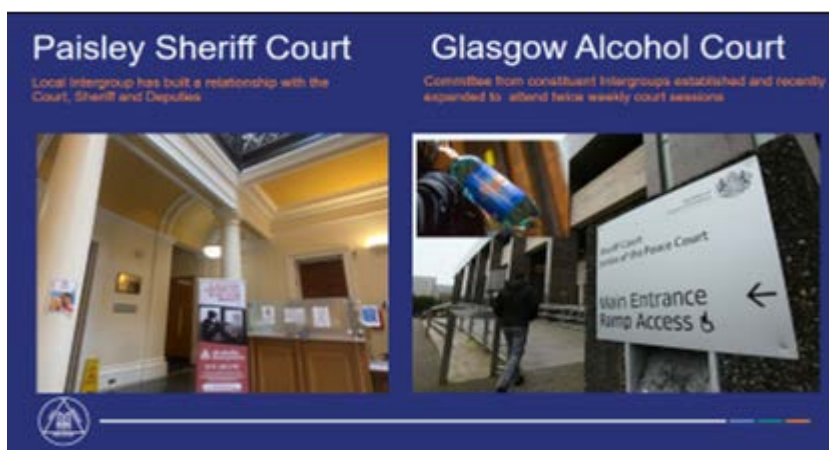


The Positive Outcomes Project is a partnership with Police Scotland, Sacro and Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership. We are not part of that partnership, because we don't get involved in partnerships. However, the Sub Committee has regular meetings with them. Their aim is to navigate individuals detained within police custody to community and statutory support agencies so you can see where we can fit in nicely with that, within our Traditions. Their team members build rapport and signpost into agencies that can help with their issues, including alcoholism.

K Division is basically the whole Division of Inverclyde. What's happened is they've got a link to the AAGB website built into their portable handheld devices, like a mini laptop that all the police carry about with them. There's no affiliation it's basically anybody that's got a laptop could be carrying it. But what it means is that they've got access to the meeting finder, the information for newcomers, when they're out and about doing their work as police officers, and the whole Division's got that.

Outreach Meetings are set up to take place shortly with the Custody Coordinator for the whole of Scotland within the police force, and we're aiming to get into the National Police Training College at Tulliallan Castle. Scotland has one police force. Police Scotland is not split up as it is in England and Wales.

A couple of examples of some really good liaison officer work:



## Paisley Sheriff Court example

Email of introduction was the start

Request to have AA banner in public area- agreed

Request to man an AA Literature stand on first Monday of month - agreed – with members present

Request to present AA to Court Consultative Meeting - agreed

Step by step the Intergroup have built a working understanding with the Court and AA is viewed as a welcome support agency to the workings of the Court.

## Glasgow Alcohol Court

Was set up in 2018 with the aim of reducing reoffending rates by supporting those individuals who have an underlying issue with alcohol in their offending.

AA invited to attend following Scottish Parliamentary Event.

The fact that it has been expanded to twice a week and the invitation to AA has been extended to the 2<sup>nd</sup> session speaks volumes about the value that is being recognised in our primary purpose work.



I'm very grateful to Carmel who will be taking over from me as Chair of the Sub Committee for attending and coordinating our cooperation with HMCTS.

She attended HMCTS Public Engagement Group Conference in March following participation in the Strategic and Jurisdictional Public Engagement Group. They're looking at how they can make courts more accessible to people and, of course, they're looking at results that they can get from having agencies and outside organisations, of which we are one.

There are three pilot sites in the planning at the moment. They've just started doing this and it's been a bit delayed - Nottingham, Newport and Truro and the relevant Regional Chairs have been made aware of this, because it's not about the Sub Committee trying to do the work for them. It's about making introductions so that it facilitates the work and smooths the way for these things to take place.

Ranjan also has been a great help attending DAREP, which is the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Expert Panel, and that provides valuable insights into the direction the powers that be are going in. Again, we're not affiliated to that in any way, shape or form. What we're doing is getting information that's useful to inform us of how we can work with them within our Traditions, and to further our primary purpose through doing that. So very grateful to them both for the efforts they've been putting in with that.



It varies between England, Wales and Scotland, so most of you be aware of PDUs, the delivery units, approved premises that used to be bail hostels. But also, we've got to think about the links inside prisons and the reason why we've been looking at this is because so many members have brought the difficulties that they've had with coordinating activities, to the Sub Committee.

We can't get in here. We can't do this. We don't know how to do this.

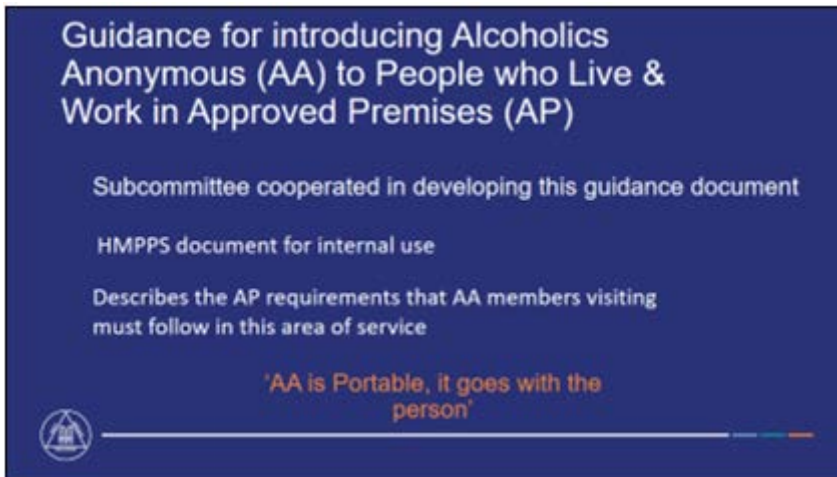
So basically, what we've done is we've been trying to build effective links at the request of the Fellowship to further our primary purpose. And we've done some good work in that we've got senior and national contacts identified with appropriate staff to facilitate introductions. So, anybody that's having difficulties can get in touch with the Sub Committee and we can help you certainly make contact with people in the right area.

We can't guarantee anything much past that, but we can certainly get you in touch with the right people.

How did it come about? Well, the AP project for a start, we've been doing other GSB projects and through the work that I've just mentioned, that Ranjan and Carmel have been involved in as well.

Why are we doing this? The senior staff of outside agencies have influence and the inside track information. The Board has got direct contact now with Directors of Probation, Ministry of Justice and leaders in Community Justice. For example, Community Justice Scotland, we are in direct contact with them on a national level. Scotland has 32 local authorities each has its own Community Justice & Social Work Department just to confuse matters. We've been contacting them, with help from Community Justice Scotland, which is the national agency, and for which we also now have a listing for Alcoholics Anonymous on their directory. They asked for it. We didn't ask to put it in there, which is important. They have listed us within each area for the whole country.

We have been doing presentations to all the local authorities, and we have had a lot of help with that, and would ask for your help and co-operation with that. All regions and intergroups have been informed as we have been going along and been asked to participate where possible.



There is a lot of talk about Approved Premises. We produced a document with HMPPS. It's their document, which is their guidance for their staff on having AA members attend their premises, which we have to adhere. We're there at the discretion of their manager, so we have to adhere to their document, but we helped write it with them, and we're very grateful that they let us do that to make sure that it fitted within our Traditions and how we can cooperate.

There's been an awful lot of work done in that and I'm very grateful for the liaison officers and regional liaison officers doing that, and people from other service disciplines have been taking part as well, so thank you for that.

The Sub Committee can assist with any queries about that through the dedicated email address as well.

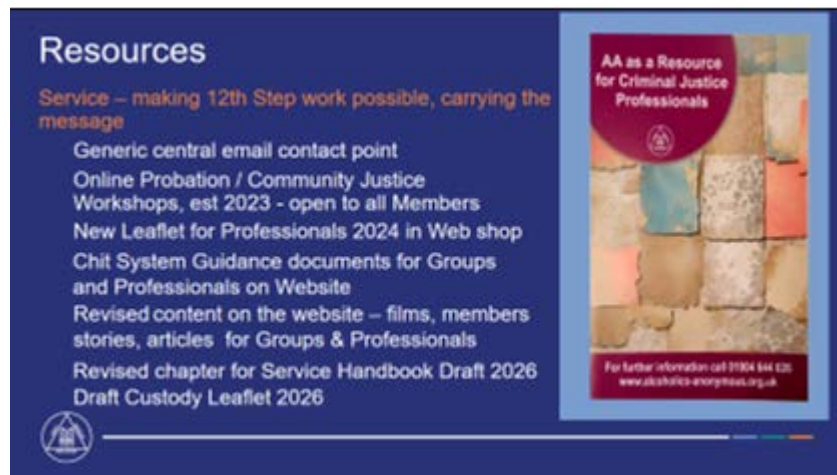


Just to give you numbers and these are from last week. There's now 1001 physical groups have Chits out of 4554 and 57 online groups have the chit system of 1027. That's a total of 5581 groups of which 1058 operate the Chit System.

That's a huge difference since 2022 which is wonderful. I'm very grateful for all the work everybody's been doing in that, however, it's still only about 20% of the groups, so there's a lot of work to be done.

Very briefly, I had the privilege of serving with Tom Fox, and when travelling back from a seminar in Derby a few years ago, I said to Tom that I thought it'd be a good idea for quarter to half the groups

to have the Chit System. Tom's reply to that. What's to stop all groups having it? Now, it's a perfect objective from a wonderful servant of Alcoholics Anonymous, and a good lesson in humility for me. I just hope it will keep expanding



These are all the resources that are available to you. I'm not going to go through them all. Thank you very much for approving the custody leaflet tonight. That's going to be very useful, particularly with the stencil work that's been going on, and hopefully that's going to spread nationally.

Thank you very much for the efforts of Committee 6 with the review of Chapter 8, which is up to yourselves to decide on tomorrow.

Finally, I don't know if I've got time for questions this evening, but if you do, alternatively, you can email [infoprobation.sc@aamail.org](mailto:infoprobation.sc@aamail.org) and we can get back to you.

I'm rotating out tomorrow at lunchtime, so I'd like to say thank you to all my fellow Trustees, all of you, for letting me be of service and I highly recommend service on this wonderful Board to you.

I'd like to leave you with a brief quote that I heard during the opening speech of the Winter Olympics in February. And it goes like this:

*'Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire'*

God bless you.  
Thank you.

Copies of the PowerPoint presentation are available from GSO.

## **General Service Board Updates** (inserted here for continuity)

### **AA Service News Update**

AA Service News (AASN) is a service information newsletter that is produced by the General Service Board and is distributed each quarter to over 4000 groups in print, and to approximately 2000 digitally, as well as intergroups and regions.

AA Service News is also on the AAGB website, and previous issues can be found in the website Document Library.

Included in AA Service News are the Conference questions and responses in the winter and summer issues respectively, messages from the General Secretary, bullet points from meetings of the GSB and adverts for vacancies on sub-committees. It also contains updates on special projects such as the British Big Book, and requests for input into new AA literature and pamphlets, and inspiring articles from members on their experience of service at all levels of our structure.

## **Holly A – Editor of AA Service News**

### **Archives Update**

#### **Archive Subcommittee Meetings**

The archive subcommittee met three times during the past year two online and one at the General Service Office. We continue to invite the AA archivist at the Borthwick Institute and some other staff members to the subcommittee meetings as it is proving to be informative and productive.

#### **Oral Histories**

The subcommittee is appealing to archivists to record interviews with long standing members of the fellowship. This initiative helps in preserving oral history and, with appropriate consent, allows us to share some of the interviews on the website. If you require assistance with this process, please reach out to the Fellowship Archivist.

#### **Borthwick Institute Cataloguing Project**

Emma Hollis the AA Borthwick Archivist works on the AA archives from Wednesday afternoon to Friday. Every December GSO deposits a new batch of archives at Borthwick Institute for Emma to process.

Emma has now finished the general cataloguing of the outstanding physical archive material originally sent to the Borthwick institute.

There are duplications of Regional/ Intergroup minutes, group histories these are not needed in the archive. These will be offered back to the relevant groups and if not required by them will be destroyed.

#### **Archive Literature**

The subcommittee continues to review the existing and created new AA archivists supporting literature. One revised pamphlet will be presented to conference 2026.

#### **Group histories**

One of the main sources of information for group histories is the Group Information – Registration and Update Meeting Form previously known as the pink form. GSO puts together a spreadsheet for the archives sub-committee which contains Information on group numbers and other non-personal information. Certain groups have not submitted a form for years. It would help our work if groups would keep the group information up to date by letting GSO know of any changes to the group.

#### **The Archivist Network**

The Archive Network meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2025. A total of 30 members attended 21 in person and 9 online an increase of 9 attendees over 2024.

Emma Hollis the AA Borthwick Archivist gave a presentation outlining the process of collecting archives at the General Service Office, catalogue and storing of archives at the Borthwick institute. Charles C (subcommittee member) shared his experience on creating archival for the Northern National Convention. There was a sharing of experience from the attending archivists. Amongst the subject discussed were the importance of capturing the fellowship's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Preserving the history and archive material of the national conventions. The suitability of

keeping or displaying certain material in the Fellowship archives bearing in mind anonymity and GDPR for example bank statements, photographs of people etc.

### **The AA Archives**

The archive continues to receive donations from members of the fellowship including a necklace-style engraved medal commemorating 25 years of AA, presented to Bill W at the Ohio convention. It is intended to display this medal.

All archive material has potential historical and informational value and could be an asset to the AA GB Archive. If you are thinking of donating to the archives the donation procedure is set out on page 5/6 in the "Guide for Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain Intergroup and Region Archivists" which is in the archives folder of the document library on the AA website.

### **75<sup>th</sup> Banners**

The banners designed for the 75th archive display at the Leeds City Museum continue to be used at AA events nationwide. They are available for use by the fellowship. If you would like to use them at an AA event, please let the archive subcommittee know.

### **Subcommittee update**

Two members of the archive subcommittee will have rotated out. Hywel P in 2025 and Charlie C in March 2026. There is an acute shortage of members on this committee. Please consider joining us.

This is my last report to Conference as I rotate out. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to past and present members of this hardworking and extremely supportive subcommittee.

### **John C – Trustee Archives**

## **Armed Services Update**

I would like to start my report with a huge thank you to all the Intergroups and Regions Armed Service Liaison Officers who have been carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the Armed Services, health workers and their families.

### **Excerpt from Guidelines 2:1 - AA and The Armed Services:**

Intergroups and regions are responsible for the appointment of an Armed Services Liaison Officer [ASLO] to work in conjunction with other intergroup and regional officers. The role of the ASLO is to establish and maintain communication between Alcoholics Anonymous and The Royal Navy, The Army and The Royal Air Force and to report back at all levels within intergroup or region.

### **Sub-committee Update**

- The Armed Services Sub-committee met four times this year twice online and twice at GSO. The subcommittee includes three trustees, one trustee-elect, and one subcommittee member. The last subcommittee member rotates out in February, and two trustees will rotate out at Conference 2026.
- There will be no members of the Fellowship on the sub-committee which if not filled will impede the ability of the sub-committee to function in its role of supporting the General Service Board, ASLO and Regional Armed Service Liaison Officer [RASLO].
- The subcommittee continues to maintain the Armed Services 12 Step list which is on Google documents and is available for telephone responders.
- The ASLO 12<sup>th</sup> Steps list continues to be updated by the subcommittee. As of November 2025, the list contains 72 members. The distribution for different areas is: Eastern 13,

London 5, Midlands 7, South Midlands 6, North Eastern 8, North West 5, South East 11, South West 6, Wales & Borders 3, Scotland 6 and Central European 1.

- A survey of the AA Confidential Directory In December 2025 suggests that of the 16 regions 9 have Regional Armed Service Liaison Officers in post. The intergroups have 52 Armed Service Liaison Officers in post. This is a slight increase from last year. The sub-committee continues in its role to support the Armed Service Liaison Officers (ASLO) and Regional Armed Service Liaison Officers (RASLO). Support by the subcommittee is restricted due to lack of subcommittee members.
- The sub-committee now has sufficient material to proceed with the process of creating new Armed Services literature and would like to thank those members who have contributed written shares for this purpose. This process may be delayed due to a shortage of subcommittee members.
- The sub-committee has an online workshop planned for March 2026 to assist existing LO's and encourage more members of the fellowship into this very rewarding area of service.
- The sub-committee continues to monitor and update the Information on the services section of the AA website.
- The sub-committee Terms of Reference were reviewed in January 2026.
- We said goodbye to Geoff C who rotated out of the subcommittee in February 2026 and Anthony B who stepped down from the subcommittee.

### **RASLO Meeting**

The RASLO meeting was held at GSO in February 2025. There were 12 attendees including 3 sub-committee members. Many points were discussed including monitoring of AA e-mail addresses when the post was vacant, the cost and use of banners to assist in presentations at health fairs etc, lack of subcommittee members, problems with the flow of information between intergroups, regions and the subcommittee.

This is my last report to Conference as I rotate out. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to past and present members of this hardworking and extremely supportive subcommittee.

### **John C – Trustee Armed Services**

### **Employment Update**

The principle of rotation remains vital to our subcommittee. We have recently welcomed two new members, as well as a Non-Alcoholic Trustee (NAT) who is new to the Board. Our current Secretary, Mary, will be rotating out of her role in May, with a subcommittee (SC) member prepared to transition into this essential position. The Secretary is responsible for coordinating and distributing all leads received from the GSO helpline to local Region Liaison Officers.

Throughout this year, we have delivered presentations at several events, including Wrigleys, a solicitor's firm. A testimony from a recovered alcoholic particularly engaged attendees and prompted numerous questions. The SC has also presented at Circle Health, ScotRail, NatWest Bank, Kier Construction, and, for a second time, the London Fire Brigade.

Last year, the SC explored opportunities for collaboration with the Continental Europe Region (CER). To support this initiative, we recruited a member with Conference experience in CER, which we hope will further facilitate liaison work within the region. It is important to note that the CER encompasses multiple countries with varying labour laws. Recently, we were approached by the Bulgarian fellowship, seeking guidance on establishing their first Employment seminar meeting. We participated in a Zoom Q&A session, with interpretation provided by two Bulgarian members, and

shared our approved presentation materials. Additionally, a Bulgarian fellowship member attended this year’s Employment seminar and discussed the challenges they face; considerable encouragement and advice were offered by all participants. Subsequently, the SC has been invited to present a segment at their upcoming online event in May.

Looking ahead, the SC is evaluating methods to enhance communication with the fellowship to recruit RELOs and ELOs into service. The annual meeting in June will take the form of a workshop, guided by the perspectives and input of attendees.

## **Tony S – Trustee Employment**

### **First Response Online Update**

The First Response Online Sub Committee (FROSC) is responsible for the administration of our two online services: Chat Now and the Online Response Service (ORS), which are live chat and email services.

The services are a vital part of our work to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic, and the dedication of our responders ensures that the hand of AA is always there for anyone who is reaching out for help with their drinking.

The statistics for ORS and Chat Now show how many people are reaching out for help online and illustrate how vital both services are in helping the still-suffering alcoholic. Between the two services we receive in excess of 1200 first contacts per month.

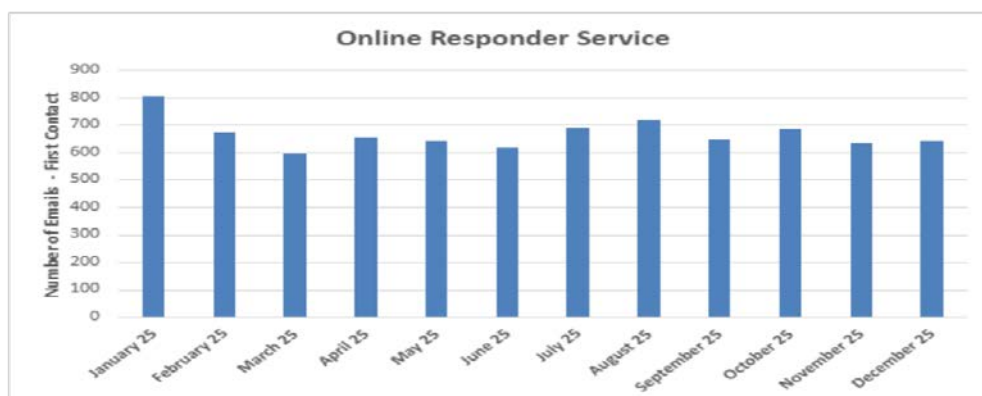
In 2025 the Online Response Service (ORS) received a total of 11,705 emails. Of these, 8,002 were initial contact (Graph 1) and the remaining 3,703 were additional emails replying to responders (Graph 2). The online responders sent a total of 10,435 emails over the year. (Graph 2).

Over the course of 2025 the Chat Now responders dealt with a total of 8220 live chats, with an average of 685 chats per month (Graph 3).

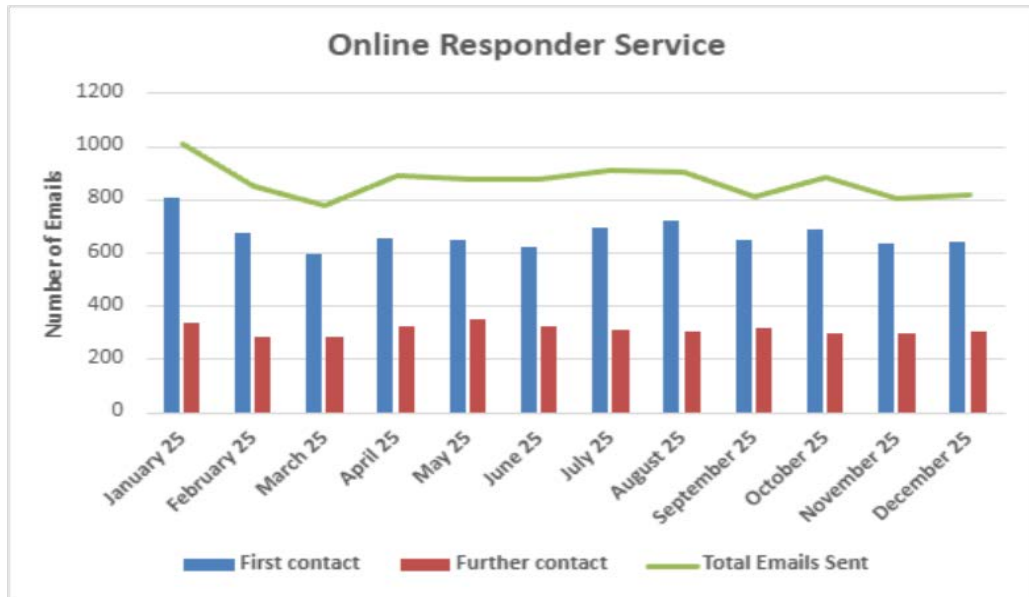
That is a total of 16,222 initial contacts in 2025 from someone reaching out for help either for themselves, a friend or family member, or in a professional capacity.

Although both services are aimed at the suffering alcoholic, we do get enquiries from family and friends, existing members of AA, professionals such as medical practitioners or counsellors and other miscellaneous queries. On average, 50 – 55 % of contacts are from newcomers or people returning to AA. (Pie chart 1 & pie chart 2).

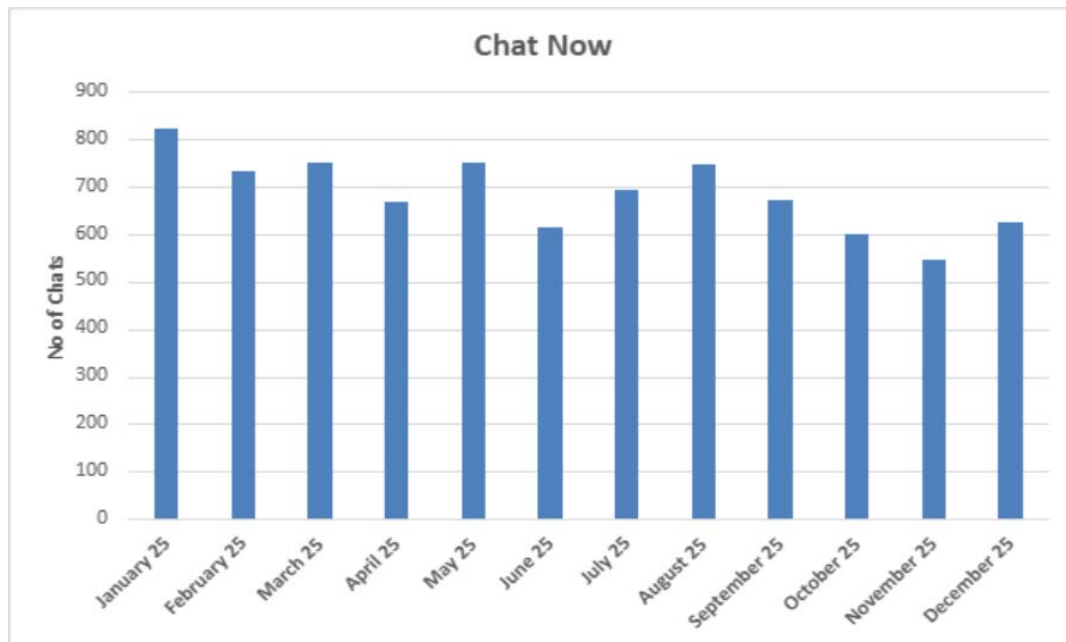
*Graph 1 – initial contact emails received*



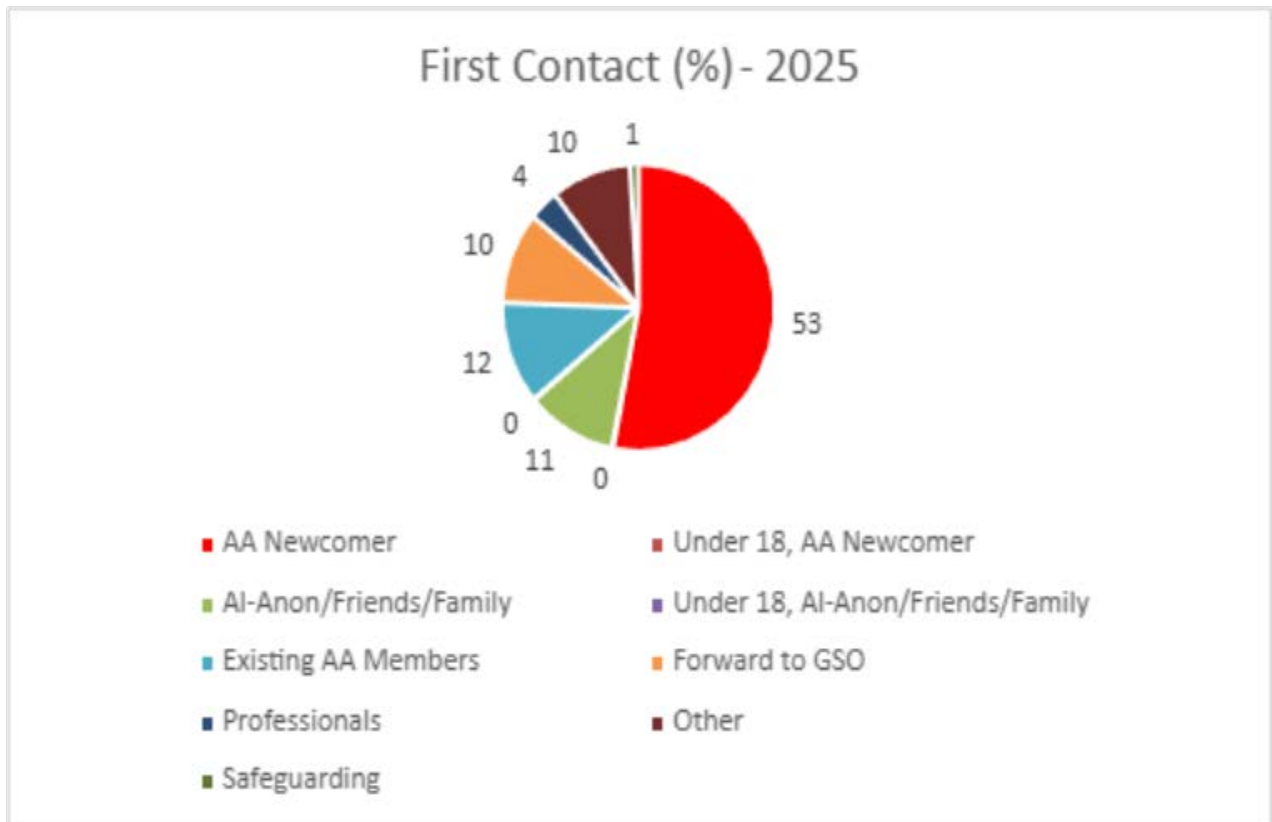
Graph 2 – initial emails received, further emails received, and emails sent



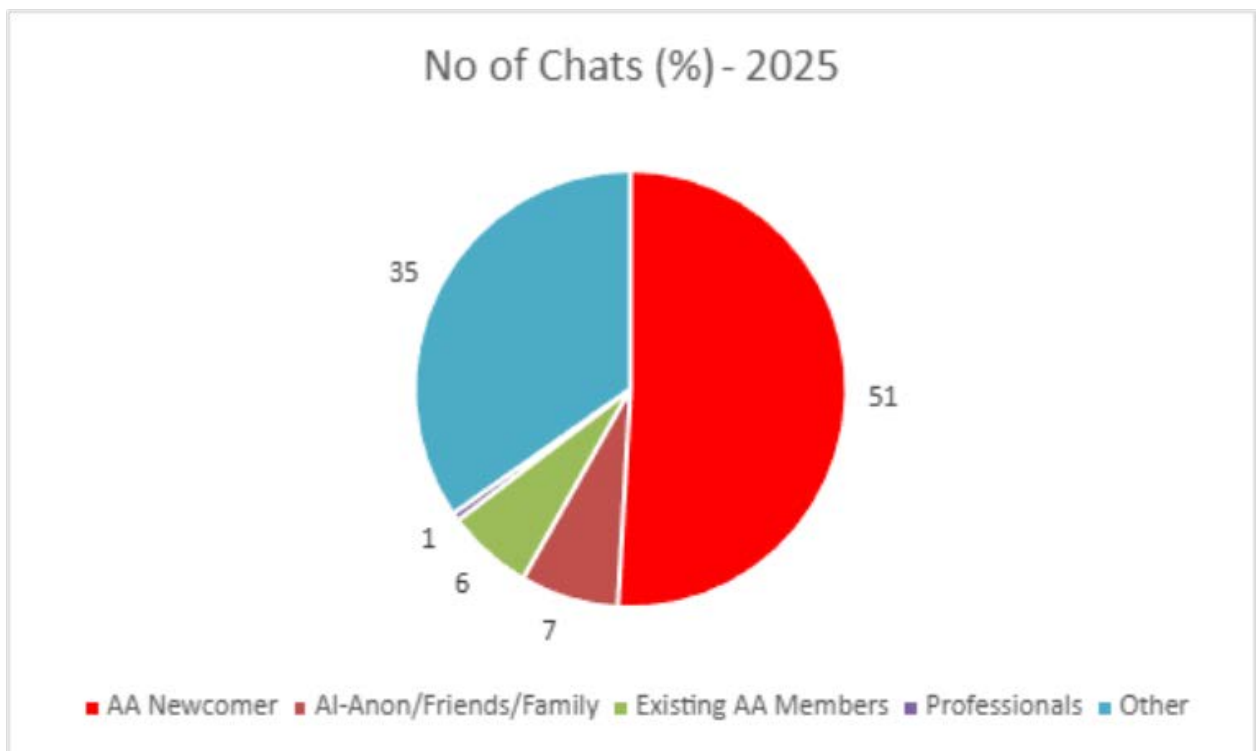
Graph 3 – number of live chats



Pie chart 1 – types of enquiry on email service\*



Pie chart 2 – types of enquiry on Chat Now\*



\*Please note that figures are rounded up

We held a well-attended online workshop in June about our online services and were delighted that it resulted in a significant number of applications from members who wished to become responders.

We will be holding another online workshop on 24th January 2025.

We are continuing to regularly review and update all our guidance for responders and ensure that all our safeguarding processes are in place. We also screen our chats and emails to ensure best practice, and 100% of chats and over 90% of emails are now screened by admin team members and the sub committee.

Thanks to the commitment and effort made by our responders and by members of the sub committee, the services are operating smoothly and continuing to grow, and we offer our thanks to all of them for their dedication.

**Holly A and Jill T – Trustees for First Response Online**

## **Health Report Update**

The Health Sub Committee continues to support Region and Intergroup Health Liaison Officers to build on the 2023 National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Standard for treating people with Alcohol Use Disorders <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/gs11>.

The NICE Quality Standard applies only in England and Wales, of course. However, in these countries it influences the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)'s Offender Health Strategy, as well as professionals and managers in the criminal justice system. So it has opened doors to cooperation with His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).and with local authority social services.

In Scotland, we are grateful to Regional Health Liaison Officers who are working with the Scottish Government consultation, about developing a new Alcohol (and Substance Misuse) Strategy for Scotland. In Health service, we're seeing that health and social care professionals are increasingly willing to speak with 'Lived Experience Recovery Organisations' (LEROs) as they develop plans to meet local needs. Members who can represent our fellowship in this context are doing Public Information as well as Health service, and we thank them all for carrying our message.

The SC is refreshing and rebuilding health resources on the website. Published resources will appear on the Health Service page or in the Health section of the new Document Library. Resources and templates for Liaison Officers will be in the Health Filestore. Please get in touch with the SC through [aainformation@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@gsogb.org.uk) if you can't find what you need.

Huge thanks to every member who attended the Annual Health Meeting with Regional Health Liaison Officers, and the hybrid Seminar in September 2025. Your work is inspiring. At the Seminar, we heard from RHLOs in Glasgow and Continental Europe, who serve with persistence facing different challenges to those in England & Wales. (Two examples were implementation of the 2020 Disclosure (Scotland) Act for all volunteers on 1 April 2025; and cooperation with local AA fellowships, which is important throughout Continental Europe Region, where members serve in 53 different countries and jurisdictions.

With thanks to all members doing service for Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain in Health.

**Carmel G and Kieran Moriarty - Trustees for Health Service**

## **Inclusivity Update**

This year has been marked by significant development within the Inclusivity Committee. Each Working Group (WG) has evolved, allowing members to successfully engage with the wider membership.

### **Race2Day (WG)**

The Race2Day Working Group has had a productive year, delivering workshops addressing race, inclusivity, and accessibility at events across the UK—including Glasgow, Birmingham, and the SNC—and distributing multilingual literature to foster a more welcoming and accessible AA. The group is currently collecting narratives from People of Colour, white ethnic minorities, dual-heritage individuals, and members of the travelling community to capture diverse experiences of sobriety in the UK. These stories will inform the development of a new pamphlet aimed at ensuring AA is an inclusive space for all. Looking ahead, Race2Day is considering a joint booklet with other working groups within the committee and initiating future projects such as podcasts and the creation of a historical timeline.

Pragnya, Chair of the WG, was elected as a Trustee and will transition out of the role following Conference 2026. A new Chair has been appointed who will receive ongoing support and guidance from both the Working Group and the committee.

### **LGBTQIA+ (WG)**

Established after the previous AA Conference, this working group was tasked with revising the leaflet 'LGBT Voices' to ensure representation of the entire LGBTQIA+ community within AA's inclusivity efforts. Under Jane C's leadership, the group reached out broadly to members across AA GB & CER, inviting stories from LGBTQIA+ individuals. These contributions were included verbatim, with minimal editing to preserve the authors' original intent.

The group carefully reviewed each submission to ensure balanced representation in the new pamphlet, recognising the unique value of every story. Their diligent approach to this challenging task deserves commendation. The revision was completed on schedule, reviewed by the Literature Committee, and will be submitted to Conference 2026 for consideration.

Following the completion of this work, there have been changes within the group: Jane C has been appointed Trustee and is stepping down, alongside two other departing members. The next steps include recruiting new members and determining future initiatives, with a continued focus on ensuring that all AA publications employ inclusive language sensitive to under-represented communities.

### **Accessibility (WG)**

This year presented challenges for the Accessibility Working Group, whose members and Chair bring direct experience with both visible and invisible accessibility barriers. The Chair delivered a presentation at the London International Convention in May, which generated considerable engagement and feedback.

A key question posed by the Access Working Group pertains to Tradition 3—'The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking'—and how this principle applies to Groups when considering members with accessibility needs.

This year, Zelma, the Trustee assigned to this WG, is rotating out of her role. We extend our best wishes to her and look forward to her continued involvement at conventions and meetings in Wales.

### **Tony S – Trustee for Inclusivity**

## National Telephones Update

**National Telephone Sub-Committee** has been working hard on fulfilling the Conference recommendation to find a better solution for the 0800 number.

We have a working group that has been working closely with Lily, our potential provider, in testing the system provided. This has been a lengthy process because we want to make sure that it fulfils all the requirements for a better working system before switching from our current provider.

The subcommittee has been providing and revising various guidelines in the hope of helping RTLOs, TLOs and responders/operators. These are all available on the website.

### Levey P and Angela S – Trustees for Telephones

## PI & Ecomms Update

As I rotate off the General Service Board immediately following Conference 2026, this is my last report to Conference as Chairperson of the PI & Ecomms Subcommittee. In the years that I have attended Conference, as a Regional Delegate and member of the Board, I have heard many Trustees say what an honour and privilege it is to do this service. I can wholeheartedly agree! It's been a fantastic experience for me, even though it hasn't all been plain sailing and I've had to move out of my comfort zone many times. Each time has been a learning experience though.

I have been totally impressed with the knowledge and wisdom of my Fellow Trustees and with the unwavering support, encouragement and unity I have been shown.

I'd like to take the opportunity to say a few other thankyou's. Firstly, to members of the PI & Ecomms Sub Committee who have worked consistently to support and collaborate with members of the Public Information and Ecomms communities in the Fellowship. Also, Ranjan, our General Secretary, and the staff at GSO who work away to keep the Fellowship services running smoothly, day in and day out. And lastly, all the people I have met, and friends I have made, in my term as Trustee. I am constantly amazed by the energy, creativity, willingness and sheer effort of the Fellowship to carry our wonderful message of recovery to those in need, to professionals and to the general public.

Now to the work of the PI & Ecomms Sub Committee over the past 12 months.

The Sub Committee has continued with the ongoing task of providing support for members of the Fellowship who use the AAGB Filestore and the Intergroup and Regional microsities. The Helpdesk facility on the AAGB website continues to receive frequent requests for assistance from newcomers and members alike. Many thanks to the to all the Sub Committee members for their diligence and constant service looking after these facilities.

For Members of the Fellowship doing service at Intergroup and Region, we continue to offer generic email addresses to help preserve anonymity and aid in GDPR compliance. Please help out when you rotate into a service post by completing the Intergroup and Region Officer Registration Form. This form is available from the website Document Library and includes a tick box to request an *aamail.org* email address. Timely updates ensure that the Confidential Directory is kept up to date and please let GSO know if you rotate out of a service post without a direct replacement.

## **Requests from Conference 2025**

Following on from Conference 2025 the GSB requested the PI & Ecomms SC update website pages referencing the “Pink Form” relating this title with “Group Information – Registration and Update Meeting Form”. With the help of the Web Content Manager at GSO, this task has been completed. Additionally, web redirects have been created so that members of the Fellowship using saved searches or bookmarks with the term “Pink Form” will still work. A search on the website for that term will also take you to the correct page to update Group Information.

The General Service Board was also asked by the Fellowship to evaluate and provide guidance on the use of Social Media. This has proved to be a large task and the work is ongoing. After an initial evaluation of the options identified at Conference 2025, two platforms were selected for an initial trial – these were X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram. After some public controversy over posts on X late in 2025, we decided to put testing this platform on hold and concentrate on Instagram and its sister platform of Facebook. Anonymised accounts have been created and tracking URLs produced to link to the AA GB website from both platforms. To maintain conformity with the AA Traditions we have created static posts with commenting disabled. The account is updated weekly.

Our experience so far has been that the footprint of our accounts, and the level of engagement, has been low. We feel that this is mainly due to the static nature of the posts which aren’t favoured by social media algorithms. The challenge is in building a presence on the platforms which generally requires consistent and frequent interaction to refresh content and attract social media users.

Work will continue developing these accounts and gaining experience. We are also exploring the use of the YouTube platform to present Conference approved AA videos.

Generic guidance on the use of Social Media has previously been produced by the PI & Ecomms Subcommittee and is currently being updated.

## **Website update**

After coming out of project phase, the website is in a “Business as Usual” mode now. This includes managing ongoing tasks such as updating shop categories on the website, updating the contents of the document library and updating the ‘Group Information – Registration and Update Meeting Form’ as well as regular content updates and adding news items.

The user journey for newcomers has been modified to make it simpler and easier for a person looking for help to find information such as the phone number for the Helpline and the e-responder email address. A selection of ‘bite-size’ accounts from members of the Fellowship is also presented to promote identification.

The Website In Progress (WIP) Group continues to meet bi-weekly to review, prioritise and plan updates to content and structure of the website, as required.

## **PI & Ecomms Intergroup & Regional Liaison**

The PI & Ecomms Sub Committee held a combined Regional PI and Regional ECLo Liaison meeting at York in 2024. At the request of the attendees we facilitated an online session for further collaboration in February 2025 which included Intergroup as well as Regional officers. Feedback indicated that it proved to be successful in encouraging collaboration and providing support to both those officers new in post and existing PI and Ecomms officers too. After a follow-up request at the

2025 Regional Liaison meeting, we are continuing with an online liaison meeting for Region and Intergroup officers in February 2026.

### **PI Newsletter**

The PI Newsletter was relaunched with three quarterly editions in 2025. The circulation list includes Region and Intergroup Chairs and PILO's as well as Sub Committee members, Trustees and any Fellowship member who has requested addition to the mailing list. If you already receive a copy, please feel free to distribute additional copies electronically or in printed form.

We would be really pleased to receive your PI related news for consideration and possible inclusion in future editions of the newsletter. Send your news items to [aainformation@gsoqb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@gsoqb.org.uk) and if you have any anonymous images to go with your item, all the better. Don't worry about spelling, structure or format as the Newsletter Editorial Team will make any changes necessary.

### **Replacement for Workplace**

At the end of August 2025, Meta discontinued live access to Workplace, switching to a Read Only mode. The PI & Ecomms Subcommittee is evaluating the use of a replacement platform which integrates with the Google Suite of applications to provide a fully functioned communication platform. If testing is successful, it is hoped that a staged rollout to members of the Fellowship doing service can be started later in 2026.

### **Family Look Guidelines**

As a reminder, when communicating or presenting when doing service on behalf of AA, following the AA "Family Look" fosters **consistency, trust, and recognition** and contributes to the overall effectiveness of the communication. The Family Look Guidelines are available in the Document Library on the AA GB Website.

### **Tim B - Trustee for PI & Ecomms**

### **Prisons Update**

At Conference 2025, our new pamphlet, AA Service in Prisons, was accepted and is now in print and available from GSO. This is a resource for anyone who is involved in prison service.

The sub-committee has now updated the Prison section of the Service Handbook. This will be going to Conference 2026.

Our Beyond the Bars newsletter is published 4 times a year and is available in the document library.

An online prison workshop was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August with 58 attendees, as this was a great success, and we plan another on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Invitations will be going out in the new year.

Max J and I have been attending a Mutual Aid forum run by HMP, where we can discuss any problems we might have when going into prisons and try to resolve them.

I attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Prison Seminar in Bulgaria in October. This was very informative, and it was an honour to have been able to attend.

The sub-committee continues to keep our information up to date.

It is my last year as a Trustee, and I thank everyone for all the work and help that has been given to me.

### **Zelma K – Trustee for Prison**

## **Young People Update**

This year marks 10 years since the Young People's Liaison Officer position was introduced into the structure of AAGB, and it has been a busy and exciting year. There are increasing numbers of Young People's meetings across the country that are carrying the message of recovery and providing identification for the younger alcoholic. Intergroup and Regional YPLOs are involved in workshops, poster campaigns, school talks and attendance at 'freshers weeks', to mention just a few of the ongoing initiatives.

The Young People's sub-committee held a Roadshow in Birmingham on 21st June, which was an opportunity for members to get together to share experience and generate ideas, and the format was a combination of presentations, a panel discussion and a workshop. This followed Roadshow's in previous years held in Leeds, Cardiff and Glasgow, which led to increased numbers of Young People's meetings and more members getting involved in service.

We were represented at both the Welsh and Scottish National Conventions this year, and the North West Regional Young Person's Convention - 'Manypaa 2025' - took place in Manchester on 30th and 31st August, with the theme of 'Young at Heart'.

The sub-committee has created a newsletter detailing some of the work being done in the YP discipline. The aim of the newsletter is partly to support and inspire YPLO's in the work that they are doing, and also to let the Fellowship as a whole know about the initiatives that are being undertaken by young people in AA.

We have a WhatsApp group for the YPLOs, which currently has 75 members who share experience on their service roles, ask for help and suggestions, and reach out for members to get in touch with young newcomers. It is an enthusiastic and supportive community, and a great resource for YPLOs to keep in touch.

In the 10 years since it was introduced to the service structure of AAGB, the Young People's discipline has grown and evolved into a vital part of our primary purpose work of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

### **Holly A – Trustee for Young People**

## **Roundabout Update**

Our subcommittee met in person at the start of the year in Pitlochry, this annual meeting is always a great way to start the year; allowing us to spend time discussing service roles, development of the magazine and planning for succession as a few members were due to rotate out over the following 12 months. Dilys, one of our proofreaders, put herself forward for the Editor role as she was due to rotate in July and under our terms of reference she is permitted to stay on for an additional two years if taking on this role; as Cath is due to rotate early 2026 from this role, her request was welcomed by everyone! Towards the end of 2025 Cath started to hand over the role of Editor to Dilys and this will be completed early 2026.

We currently have 13 Roundabout Liaison Officers in Scotland and we came together in March at our annual workshop in Glasgow. We were joined by members of GSO, NSO, the GSB and representees from Share magazine. Our Trustee, Andrina C, welcomed everyone and, along with input from the RLOs and the subcommittee, we also had an update from Justin of the GSB and Anne Marie at the Northern Service Office. In the afternoon we spent time testing everyone with a 'spot the editing

mistake' exercise which challenged most and showed some of the tweaks that our proofreading team will complete once articles are received and processed. We also asked everyone to write '90 words of gratitude' for us to use in the June 'gratitude' themed issue later in the year.

Our subcommittee members and RLOs attended several conventions throughout Scotland this year, including the Scottish National Convention, Aberdeen, Oban, Lochaber, Glasgow and many more. Attending conventions is vital for us to promote Roundabout, gather and encourage articles, and provide information on subscriptions. We will always attend when asked if we can.

Following our in-person meeting in Pitlochry in January, we also met virtually online in June, August, and October. Sadly, our Trustee Andrina resigned from her role due to health reasons in the autumn, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her dedication to Roundabout and gentle guidance over the years. She has been a tremendous asset and example.

Over the past 12 months we have continued to focus on themed issues and were pleased to be able to bring a spotlight to Sobriety in Prisons; Our Rural Members and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AA Worldwide.

Finally, a thank you to everyone who helps bring Roundabout together every month, our Subcommittee team, our RLO's, the team at GSO and NSO, GSB, our audio recorders and, of course, everyone who contributes through articles, photos and subscriptions.

**Cath W - Trustee Elect for Roundabout**

## **Share Update**

Share has had another busy and successful year. We held two online meetings of the Share Editorial team and our annual Liaison Officers meeting at GSO in York. This is a hybrid meeting spread over two days so that we can invite all the IGSL0's to join us online on the Saturday. This year was very well attended and the meeting was full of ideas and enthusiasm. We even had someone put themselves forward for the new role of Share Liaison Officers Co-ordinator.

Share was present at the London Convention 2025 and the Southern National Convention. Our Editor, Agnes, was invited to the online Grapevine La Vina Magazine Workshop in the USA to talk about Share, which was warmly received.

We produced the bumper 90th Anniversary issue in June with four extra pages to celebrate gratitude.

One of our Editorial Readers represented us at the Roundabout Annual meeting in Glasgow where he was warmly welcomed and gained valuable ideas and insight which he reported back to the team.

All the deadlines have been met with lots of great articles, amusing cartoons and truly beautiful photographs. However, we always need more so, while you're penning your own article for us, please encourage your friends to write in too!

Finally, this is a time of farewells at Share as we say goodbye and thank you to Agnes who has been the driving force behind the magazine and the committee for the past few years. In her we have had a very steady and secure pair of hands and I have had the best support I could have hoped for. We all wish her a period of rest before she leaps into her next service adventure!

Taking on the role of Editor is our wonderful Assistant Editor, Bridget, who has been a hard-working member of the team for two years already and has been shadowing the editor duties for twelve

months, already having produced several issues. We wish her the very best of luck. Caroline (an experienced Editorial Reader) will be stepping into the Assistant Editor role.

As this is my last annual report for Share I would like to thank the hard-working Share editorial team and also all of the Share liaison officers and group reps. It has been a privilege to be able to serve on this committee, I have learned so much from you and enjoyed being a part of the Share family. I will continue to stay in touch through subscriptions and submissions.

**Charon B – Trustee for Share**

## **National Conventions Update**

### **Northern**

The 49th Northern National Convention (NNC) took place at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool from Thursday 27th March 2025 to Sunday 30th March 2025. 1190 tickets were sold, an increase of 9% compared to the previous year. This has been the highest attendance over the last 20 years, and the committee members appreciate all the support from the Fellowship.

The NNC is supported by 3 regions, Northwest, Northeast and the Midlands and the committee comprises 3 Regional delegates, the Executive committee, the NW Region Trustee and 2 representatives from Al-Anon. The committee meets 4 times a year with the AGM taking place in December. Regional Chairs are invited to the AGM.

The programme included Archives, Service table, Road to Recovery Banner, Service meetings, Platform meetings, Marathon meetings, Old timers and Young Person meetings, Disco Friday and Saturday evening, AA approved literature stand, raffle and Al-Anon and Al-Ateen meetings. The raffle and ticket sales generate income for next year's event and Tradition 7 contributions are sent directly to GSO.

Flyers for the event were distributed through the Regional Assemblies and available from the GSO. They are also included in the events section of the National Website, with a link to the NNC microsite.

The committee have worked tirelessly and with due diligence, in preparation for the 50th Anniversary event. The theme is 'A New Beginning' and will take place from Thursday 26th March 2026 - Sunday 29th March 2026. The committee looks forward to celebrating the Anniversary and to give the Fellowship a joyful experience.

**Angela S – Trustee for Northern National Convention**

### **Southern**

Building on the success of the previous convention, the 2025 National Southern Convention took place by the sea at the Sand Bay Resort between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September. Just over 700 members of the Fellowship attended the Convention with 545 staying on site and a further 162 attending from Bristol and the surrounding area.

To mark the occasion of the 50th Convention, sharers for the Oldtimers Meeting were all selected with 50+ years of sobriety. In total 222 years of continuous sobriety sat at the top table - a moving testament to the enduring power of the 12 Step Recovery programme of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Meetings were held throughout the weekend with entertainment each evening with a presentation on the work of the General Service Board and an inclusivity workshop held on the Saturday. Our friends at Al-Anon joined in with a programme of meetings throughout the weekend including Al-Anon and Alateen shared platforms in the main hall on Friday and Saturday.

With the support and participation of the Fellowship and the hard work and motivation of the Southern National Committee members, the Convention was a great success. The Convention Committee was pleased to be able to send a significant contribution to the General Service Office, and the Convention is fully self-supporting for 2026. The Committee is also pleased that additional Regional Delegates have joined the Committee leaving just one vacancy.

The Convention theme for 2026 is 'The Road of Happy Destiny'

### **Tim B – Trustee Southern National Convention**

#### **Scottish**

The 68th Scottish National Convention, Queens Hall, Dunoon 9th to 11th May 2025

The Convention website (<https://scottishnationalconvention.co.uk/>) has been functioning well, with the timetable, travel information, and hotel links all available. The convention was fully self-supporting with attendance numbers up and exceptionally positive feedback from the members taking part. The TOR and accounts were approved at the AGM in July. Tradition Seven to GSO was also up to £1735.25.

The regular meetings were well attended with more being 'open' this year to encourage attendance by our non-alcoholic friends. An Al Anon meeting room was also provided. The 'service area' was again popular with Roundabout and Young People disciplines being represented; information was also provided on Probation and Prisons along with a well-stocked AA conference approved literature stand. Due to EURYPAA holding their convention in Glasgow last year, the SNC committee also supported their wish to raise awareness at the SNC. The evening entertainment was popular.

This year 2026, the SNC Committee has requested participation from Telephones and Roundabout, both have been confirmed.

Weekend registration remains at £20 including the dance ticket.

The 69th Scottish National Convention 24th to 26th April 2026 will again be at The Queens Hall, Dunoon, the committee looks forward to welcoming you!

This is my final Conference report as Trustee to the Scottish Convention and would like to report that the Convention is in sound financial shape with a committed committee who have been a pleasure to serve with over the past 4 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

**Hamish McS - Trustee for Scottish National Convention**

## Welsh

Welsh National Convention was held this year on the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May at the Metropole hotel, Llandrindod Wells. There were 197 attendees with a total of 2,300 years of sobriety, with the longest 50 years and the shortest 4 days.

Platform speaker meetings were held over the weekend, along with a Welsh speaker meeting on Saturday afternoon with simultaneous translation into English via headsets.

There was entertainment on the Friday evening with musicians, and a disco and raffle were enjoyed on the Saturday evening.

The Sunday morning spiritual service was held in both English and Welsh, with a choir of our Welsh-speaking members leading Calon Lan (pure heart).

Marathon come-and-go meetings were run alongside the above.

The WNC will take place at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells 30<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025. The theme is Love and Gratitude. There will be information about Young People and Telephone disciplines. Fliers have been circulated, and we look forward to another successful year.

Although this is a small National Convention, there will be a warm Welsh welcome for anyone attending.

## Zelma K – Trustee for Welsh National Convention

### Parliamentary Events Update

#### Westminster

This year's event, '*A Resource to Professionals*', was held in The Cholmondeley Room at The House of Lords and it was a very successful occasion.

Our sponsor was Lord Cameron of Dillington, to whom we are grateful for opening the presentation.

A change of format this year, due to the time constraints of the venue, meant that we were only able to have one professional speaker and were fortunate enough to have Dr Keiran Moriarty CBE accept our invitation.

We also had two very inspiring speakers from the Fellowship sharing their experience, strength and hope.

There was a guest list of 70 which, with the committee and GSB attendees, brought us up to full capacity in the Cholmondeley Room. Out of that number, 52 attendees filled out and submitted the feedback forms that we gave out to all the guests (*some of the more notable comments are at the end of this report*).

There were plenty of questions from the floor and the GSB Chair and the General Secretary were on hand to help answer.

We, as a committee, have reflected on this event and whether there are things we can do to improve moving forward. We all agreed that, whilst being a beautiful venue, the Cholmondeley Room doesn't

serve our needs as well as Portcullis House. We feel the layout of having 'mingling' at the end of the event encourages guests to talk and fosters better connections. So, now that planning for next year's event is well under way, we have already booked Portcullis House for Tuesday 12th. May 2026. Our sponsor will be Andy Slaughter MP for Hammersmith and Chiswick.

Some of the positive feedback we received this year:

- A strong selection of speakers from diverse backgrounds provided valuable insights.
  - Personal stories from AA members were profoundly moving and impactful, reinforcing the strength found in lived experiences.
  - Informative, accessible, and engaging discussions encouraged participation and questioning.
  - The event highlighted the importance of including voices with lived experience, particularly for those in probation settings.
  - Statistics provided were highly valuable, reinforcing AA's role as a professional tool.
- Areas for Improvement:
- Delays in entering the House of Lords; a longer session/full afternoon would be ideal.
  - More time allocated for networking before the event begins.
  - Expanding invitations to ACT teams and addressing professional bias within recovery settings.

## **Charon B - Trustee for Westminster Parliamentary Events**

### **Scottish**

This year's Scottish Parliamentary Event took place on 12 March 2025 in the Fleming Room in Holyrood and was sponsored by Marie McNair, MSP for Clydebank and Milngavie.

The title and theme of the event was Dispelling the Myth: What do you know about AA?

The professional speaker for the event was Dr James Douglas, a GP from Fort William, who has been a firm advocate of AA and has spoken and written about the benefits of AA in the past. There were two AA speakers, and there was a lively question and answer session at the end that also included an impromptu testimony from an MSP regarding how AA so positively impacted her family.

This year, there is a full committee that includes representation from all the Scottish Regions. Anne Marie from the Northern Service Office has recently been able to secure an MSP sponsor for the event, Clare Haughey, Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Rutherglen Constituency, who has been an MSP since May 2016.

Having secured an MSP, enquiries were made regarding possible dates and times to hold the event. The events team at Holyrood came back to explain that, as this year is an election year for the Scottish Parliament, spaces could be booked up until the end of March, when the Parliament will break up until the first week in May, after the election. It was felt that it would be difficult for the committee to organise and arrange all that is needed to deliver a successful event in what will be about 3 months' time. It was decided to provisionally book a date in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June 2016. It is felt that having this event when the weather is nicer and there will be significantly more daylight will be a good thing.

The committee will be holding an initial meeting before Christmas break to discuss a plan to start organising the theme of the event, contacting possible professional and AA speakers to ask if they

could provisionally be available on the dates we are trying for, as well as starting to build up a good list of 'warm' contacts and others to invite to the event. This would include health and mental health professionals and practitioners, social services, the police and anyone whos' job brings them into contact with those people that find that alcohol is part of the problem, not forgetting MSPs.

As always, the committee relies on and is very grateful for the support and experience provided by Anne Marie from the AA Northern Service in Glasgow.

Following Conference 2026, a new Chair, a trustee from one of the Scottish regions, will be appointed to this committee. It has been a joy and a privilege to work with this committee, and I am sure the event this year will be a resounding success.

### **Gretchen S - Trustee, Vice Chair**

#### **Welsh**

Our annual report to professionals was held on the 6th November at the Senedd, Cardiff Bay, Wales.

Although we were short on people attending, those who did so were pleased to be there. They expressed that they had learned things about AA that they had not known previously, as they found it a bit of a mystery. They were impressed that we were self-supporting and that we were available without waiting lists. One of the community centre staff said that they wished they could cut the rent we paid them to use their rooms because of what we do.

The day started with an introduction. Jo kindly kicked us off with Ranjan following explaining what AA is and how the charity operates within the Traditions.

I followed with some history and facts of AA in Wales, then proceeded to let them know what AA does within prisons, followed by the Prison video.

Our sponsoring AS/AM Peredur Owen Griffiths, Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales, had been delayed, then thanked us for attending and sharing our information with everyone.

Two of our members shared their ESH.

There was then time for Q &A and a buffet including Welsh cakes and Bara Brith.

Next year's date is to be arranged.

### **Zelma K – Trustee for Welsh Parliamentary Event**

## OPEN FORUM

Richard welcomed all to the Open Forum, which is a non-voting session, where delegates get the chance to ask any questions which may not be covered over the weekend or about anything they have heard this weekend so far.

Richard thanked everyone for their service and left everyone with a quote from Bill:

*"Courtesy, kindness, justice, and love are the keynotes by which we may come into harmony with practically anybody."*

The meeting closed with everyone saying the Serenity Prayer, following which the preliminary Committee Reports were distributed.

## SUNDAY 19 APRIL

Richard welcomed everyone back for the third and final day of Conference and opened with a moments silence to remember the still suffering alcoholic and then asked Paul A from South Midlands Region to read the Preamble and Reuben S of East of Scotland Region to read his favourite three Traditions – 1, 4 & 10.

As agreed at Conference 1995 each recommendation will be voted on and whether or not it is a two-thirds majority will be recorded.

As promised, a reiteration of the Minority view:

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

In the light of the principle of the “Right of Appeal,” all minorities – whether in our staffs, committees, corporate boards, or among the Trustees – should be encouraged to file minority reports whenever they feel a majority to be in considerable error. And when a minority considers an issue to be such a grave one that a mistaken decision could seriously affect AA as a whole, it should then charge itself with the actual duty of presenting a minority report to the Conference.

Therefore, a minority view is not “I do not agree and I want you to know why I don’t agree” as had happened on a couple of occasions last year. It is a view which has not been considered as part of a presented response, or a sharing of views in the room, which could gravely affect AA as a whole.

To be clear, as the committee should have heard all views, once a vote is passed, if the gravity has already been pointed out during discussions (either in committee or in this room), please accept the group conscience.

After each vote of a question, I will ask if anyone would like to register a minority view, if they do, then we will hear it. If it is a genuine minority view i.e. could gravely impact AA as a whole, and has not already been heard and therefore considered then I will ask if anyone wants to revote. If one person says yes, then we will revote.

We will not continue to listen to Minority views ad infinitum following revotes, therefore if you have an alternate or additional minority view please let it be known before any vote commences. If you wish to register a minority view at any other point during the Conference (during any of the Plenary sessions), then please let it be known as I will not be calling for Minority views following these votes. If a minority view is registered and is valid, the same procedure will be followed.

Richard then invited the Chairs of the six Committees to present their respective reports which were fully discussed and adopted and as much time as was possible given for minority opinions to be heard. These Committee Reports are included in this report on the pages indicated below:

Committee No. 1	Pages 68 - 70
Committee No. 2	Pages 71 - 73
Committee No. 3	Pages 74 - 76
Committee No. 4	Pages 77 - 79
Committee No. 5	Pages 80 - 81
Committee No. 6	Pages 82 - 88

## **ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR CONFERENCE 2027**

The nomination received on Friday evening was presented and, after a vote, Gary H (Glasgow Region) was duly elected.

## **CONFIRMATION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

(Jo F, Chair GSB)

What a Conference everyone! I hope you all had a good time in your committees, and that you all found time for valuable fellowship during the weekend. You have certainly given us all food for thought!

I'd like to thank all you all for being so committed, for working hard and delivering excellent recommendations that the Fellowship and General Service Board can together deliver within the current financial constraints. The voice of the Fellowship has spoken!

Richard has stolen my thunder and has thanked everyone! But I'd like to take the opportunity to say 'congratulations' to Gary your Conference chair for 2027. You are in safe hands. I'd also like to say, 'well done' to the newly elected chairs and secretaries for Conference next year.

I'd like to thank Richard for his excellent stand-up routine this weekend, and for steering us all really well throughout. I'd also like to thank the Committee Chairs for their hard work and recommendations.

I'd also like to thank the overseas Observers, for bringing their insight, and for contributing to the discussion and process.

I'd also like to reiterate Richard's thanks to Sharon... Thank you so, so much for your contribution, and enjoy your time in retirement. You deserve it.

I don't really want to say this next bit but I have to...

This has been my first year as Chair of the General Service Board. I still find it strange to say those words, as I did not enter the doors of AA to become such. Nor did I take on the role of Trustee to become such - quite the last thing on my mind. Whilst the programme of AA got me sober, and keeps me sober, service throughout my time in AA has been at the core to my growing up, growing me out, and teaching me to be responsible. It has shown me that so much is possible if I keep my mind open, and trust in both the Fellowship and my higher power.

The last year has been incredible. It's not always been nice, but it has still been incredible. I have used each challenge placed at my door to propel growth. Growth of myself, and that of the General Service Board.

In this world of quick messaging and response, we can deliver instant vehement and antagonist messages which can be incendiary to others, and can really hurt people. In an AA business meeting, one or two individuals with a loud voice can ruin the AA experience for many others. I speak generally for myself and General Service Board trustees who have been on the receiving end of such behaviour. One AA said to a trustee something along the lines of, well it's their job to suck it up! But I don't believe this is correct.

Nowhere in our literature does it say that we treat people with such derision, intolerance, rudeness and disrespect. We wouldn't treat people in such a manner in a supermarket queue, or at work, or other occasions. So why such behaviour in AA? Should we not work with the group conscience, hearing everyone's point equally, encouraging those less able to express their voice in such a group, as we have here at Conference?

Such behaviour has a bearing on, or can directly affect AA's coming into service. It puts them off, and we so often see service positions being left vacant. AA is, then, less able to carry the message to others, and we reduce our ability to deliver our primary purpose to other alcoholics and professionals. In essence, we are potentially failing those yet to come, and this, I believe, is a very grave message. As Bill W said himself, 'the only way AA will be destroyed will be from within'.

Please remember it is '**we**' of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are each individually, and more importantly, a **UNITED** service body collectively carrying out Step 12. We are alcoholics doing what we can, within the confines of what we have. There is no governance.

I'd like to move on to the 'Thank you's' and 'Introductions'. There are indeed many...

Seven trustees will be leaving the board this year...

First off, please thank **Levey P from Continental European Region** for conscientiously travelling from Hungary to us here in Great Britain, and for being responsible for and managing a somewhat convoluted process, but which will ensure that AAs National Telephones will be delivered a future proof, exceptional and bespoke service. I'd also like to thank him for his work on the Nominations Committee, and for representing us on the European Service Meeting.

I'd like to thank **Andrina C from Glasgow Region** who has been very ill but despite this, continued her trustee work until she could no longer carry on. Andrina brought much experience strength and hope to the Finance Committee, Roundabout, and the Scottish Parliamentary Event at Holyrood.

Please help me thank **Hamish McS East of Scotland Region** for his contribution to Armed Services, for his work on the Conference Steering Committee and for the Scottish National Convention. Please also help me thank him for his inspiring work on Probation and Criminal Justice.

**Zelma K from Wales & Borders Region** is next up. Zelma has thoroughly developed, strengthened and has played a vital part of the work on Prisons across AA Great Britain and internationally. She has contributed to the Wales & Borders National Convention, to Literature, the Parliamentary Event in Wales, and as we have heard this weekend, to the Inclusivity Working Group on Access.

I'd like to thank **John C from North East Region** who has delivered on Armed Services, who shared his experience strength and hope on the General Service Board Finance Committee, and who helped build up our national Archives at the Borthwick Centre and for our wonderful archival displays.

**Tim B South Midlands Region** has worked on the Southern National Convention. He has been responsible for Public Information and Electronic Communications. I thank him very much for his incredibly dedicated work in delivering our recent national AA Great Britain website, and for his work generally on tech, and in keeping the General Service Board abreast of the fast-changing world of electronic communications.

Please thank **Charon B North London Region** who has worked with Share magazine, and headed up our Nominations Committee with great care and attention to the individuals who took time to apply

to be on a sub-committee, or as trustee for our Fellowship. She was also instrumental in regularly delivering excellent English Parliamentary Events.

Thank you all so much for your dedication, commitment, inspiration and expertise to service throughout the years you have been a trustee, not to mention for your warm and heartfelt fellowship. Whilst you move on, the General Service Board will continue to build on the excellent work you leave behind.

Now, on to those 10 trustee elects who will be joining the General Service Board this year. Before I introduce them, I'd like to especially thank all of those Regions, with a rotating trustee, for sending us outstanding candidates to interview and choose from. Difficult decisions had to be made. For the candidates who were unsuccessful this time, I'm sure will make excellent trustees in future.

So, without further ado...

Please give a warm welcome to **Gillian Edwards who is a Non-Alcoholic Trustee or NAT**. Gillian joins us with a background in the charitable sector, together with a local political background. She brings a lot of knowledge and contacts within local government. Her service discipline initially finds her on the Employment sub-committee.

I'd like to welcome the **Reverend Carol Morrison who is also a Non-Alcoholic Trustee**. Unfortunately, Carol has had to leave us early. She hails from sunny Sussex, where she is a practicing Anglican Priest. She brings with her insight and access to a wide-range of denominations. Her service discipline will be the Prisons sub-committee.

Please welcome **Jim K Glasgow Region**. His service disciplines will be the General Service Board Finance Committee, National Telephones sub-committee, the Scottish Parliamentary Event, and the Scottish National Convention.

**Matt S Continental European Region**, travels from Vienna, and his service disciplines will be Public Information and Electronic Communications, the Survey sub-committee and the European Service Meeting.

**Billy T** joins us from **South West Scotland Region**. The first trustee South West Scotland has had in a number of years. His disciplines will be Armed Services sub-committee, and Prison sub-committee.

Please welcome **Billy D from North London Region**. His service disciplines will be the Southern National Convention, English Parliamentary Event and the Health sub-committee.

I'd like to welcome **Cath W Highlands and Islands Region**. Cath is the first trustee Highlands and Islands Region has had for four years. Her service disciplines will be Roundabout, the World Service Meeting and Young Peoples.

Please welcome **Vikki C from Wales & Borders Region**, her responsibilities will be the Welsh National Convention, Welsh Parliamentary Event, and the First Response Online sub-committee. She is also taking over as Editor AASN, and already welcomes your articles on service!

Also joining the General Service Board this year from **North East Region is Jane C**. Jane's service disciplines will be the Inclusivity Working Group, Share sub-committee, and the Conference Steering Committee.

Last but not least, please welcome **Pragnya G South Midlands Region**. Her service disciplines will be the Inclusivity Working Group, the Literature sub-committee and Archives.

I'd just like to take this last opportunity to say massive **thank you** to you all for an excellent Conference, for your outstanding contributions, your fellowship and most expressly, your service. Thank you all for carrying the message.

## **Close of Conference**

(Richard P-S)

Wow, that's it then, another Conference draws to a close. I almost feel a disappointment that it's over, to spend this time with you all, the camaraderie, the common goal, the strong desire and commitment to service, the love for the thing that saved us all and for one another, I don't think there is another experience like it (in my opinion) in all of our wonderful fellowship. I will cherish this opportunity that you have given me for the rest of my days and I hope that I can share what I have learnt through this experience to inspire/convince/conscript/cajole others into service. Don't forget the promise I made at the beginning of Conference: if you ever want my help, if you ever want anything from me, just reach out. If you contact GSO I am sure they will give you my phone number. This is the three legacies in action to help the still suffering alcoholic and I still love it.

Some thanks, thank you to all those that submitted questions, I shall reiterate again some of those questions which were not accepted, with a little work, could become acceptable, so please seek myself and other members that have been part of a CSC for guidance. Keep submitting questions. Thank you to all the members and groups that took the time to review and discuss the questions to provide the responses.

Thank you to all the Delegates, this weekend has been the culmination for many of you of at least four months of work. I think you can see (and feel) the rewards in that effort, you have our gratitude. To the Committee Secretaries, thank you, it's full on, but you got there. To the Committee Chairs and members of the CSC, thank you so much for giving all of yourselves to the task, when you are elected Chair of a Committee you never know what to expect or how things work, but like all service, entered into with an open heart and a desire to the right thing for the fellowship, you cannot fail to succeed, which each of you did, thank you for your excellence and support, you have been the best CSC I have chaired.

To Sharon, Emma, Jenny, Sophie, Anne-Marie, Chris and all the staff from the General Service Office, so often used as the point of blame to the uninformed in the fellowship, those who feel they have an axe to grind and need someone that is not themselves to blame (it's them up at GSO init, got millions they have), the tireless work you do for this fellowship behind the scenes that no one sees is beyond measure. Even though most of you do not share our illness, you are the perfect example of intuitive and innate love and tolerance that we can only hope to mimic. Thank you all from the very bottom of my heart.

I have some flowers here for Sharon and I would like to thank you so much for your many years of service. Thank you.

To Ranjan, thank you, you have been a guide, a friend, a mentor and at times a sponsor, thank you so much for your support over the last couple of years.

The trustees of the General Service Board, thank you for all you give to our fellowship in service love and tolerance, each of you exemplify what it means to do service and continue to make yourselves available, even when to sometimes do so is so very uncomfortable, you don't need to do that (and

you shouldn't have to) but thank you so much for your continued service and support. I refer all at Conference, to my speech at the beginning of Conference, and all those who are reading this, to go back and read my keynote and what I said about vitriol aimed at those servants of ours. We have all witnessed it this weekend, and it is unacceptable, and we are all responsible for ensuring that this does not continue.

To all our tellers that bailed us out when the electronic system didn't work. Fingers in the air, seems to work when those people can count, so thank you very much. Thank you also to all those that read on our various sessions the preamble and gave us their three favourite Traditions

To Steve and Keith for their audio-visual talents and expertise, thank you.

To our overseas visitors we hope you've enjoyed your time with us. I hope in time that some of us will get to visit you at your conferences to share in our experience and your experience.

On behalf of us all, I would like to thank the hotel staff, who just made it a wonderful weekend and to the highest standard.

OK, last few words from me, congratulations to Gary, you will be an awesome Conference Chair and I look forward to seeing you stood up here (oh yes, I've still got my last year as a delegate to complete). My advice to you, lean on and trust in those around you, everyone wants the very best for you and trust you to bring your whole self to the party, and the most important thing to remember, Rule 62!

I'll leave you with this....

"Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny."

I would really like if you would join me in closing the conference with the Responsibility Pledge followed by the Serenity Prayer.

"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."

Using the word God as you understand it.... God....

Have a safe journey home everyone.

## **DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE**

The Sixty-First General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at the Raddison Hotel, North Street, York on 9 – 11 April 2027.

## SIXTIETH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2026

# COMMITTEE No. 1

CHAIR

MARK T

NORTH EAST REGION

SECRETARY

JULIE P

WALES & BORDERS REGION

- 1. Would Conference consider the adoption of inclusive wording in the AA GB Preamble—specifically replacing “a fellowship of men and women” with “a fellowship of people”—in light of AA’s Responsibility Pledge and the Third Tradition.**

We vote to change the ‘official’ preamble to a fellowship of people – this directly answers the question. As per Tradition 4 each group is autonomous however the board members, trustees, sub committees and literature do not have autonomy, and are required to use the Conference approved version of the preamble (including national conventions and the website). Our preamble is the public facing statement of what and who we are.

Votes 12 for, 5 against, 3 abstentions

To address the following concerns raised in our committee of wider implications of this change.

1. Changing the literature

Alcoholics Anonymous GB conference does not have the authority to change the Big Book, Steps, Traditions and Concepts as this requires a 2/3 majority of worldwide groups.

2. Cost implications

The recommended change will be rolled out as literature is reprinted therefore there are no additional cost implications for the Fellowship.

*This recommendation was passed with a simple majority*

- 2. Would Conference discuss and recommend suggestions as to how our AA Groups could increase their 7th Tradition contributions so that our Fellowship is as financially robust as it can be for the future in terms of carrying its message to the still suffering alcoholic?**

Group Meetings

Suggested statement for Groups

Contributions cover our local running costs. Any surplus is forwarded to our local intergroup to support the wider AA service structure to reach the alcoholic who still suffers. We suggest a donation 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.

1. Making announcement about increased costs from chair/secretary/treasurer
2. Use of different payment options, PayPal, QR codes, bank transfer and card readers
3. How Tradition 7 surplus is spent needs to be explained as it goes down the structure

4. Passing the pot twice if it hasn't made the rent
5. Putting more than a 'pound in the pot' – what's the price of a pint/coffee today?
6. Not hanging on to money, passing it down the structure, what does the money buy?  
Helpline and PI work, special workers to help AA's primary purpose. Responsibility of GSR's to communicate where the money goes
7. Reading out full Tradition 7 long form at business meetings
8. Remember that cash is still an option, so passing the pot still works
9. Display material for the groups that explain Tradition 7
10. Changes in reporting at all levels, groups not holding onto cash, moving money on when prudent reserve reached
11. Contributions from online meetings down the structure
12. Treasurers to speak up at meetings putting a face to the 'pot'! All group treasurers refer to the leaflet 'The Pot' and 'The Group Treasurer's Cashbook'
13. As a group remember we are not just supporting our group but we are supporting AA as a whole
14. Consideration to setting up new meetings, is it required? How does it impact other local groups
15. Communication needed for groups that pay direct to GSO – missing out on intergroup information and using funds locally for our primary purpose
16. Contribution is an expression of gratitude, very often we have become more financially viable due to recovery
17. Look at where Tradition 7 money being spent ensuring it is for AA's primary purpose.
18. Set up a regular giving system for home group members to pay monthly by standing order or envelopes, as is done in churches

#### Intergroup/Region

1. How Tradition 7 surplus is spent needs to be explained as it goes down the structure
2. To create display material for the groups that explains Tradition 7
3. Region to provide practical advice and information for groups on how to set up alternative digital forms of payment. (Opening a bank account, how to do it, list which payment channels are available to groups)
4. Intergroup and Regions to run online workshops on treasury and finances including digital payments.
5. Receipts given when money sent to I/G or Region.

The Committee also recommends the following to GSB:

1. How Tradition 7 surplus is spent needs to be explained as it goes up the structure, continue to work on clarity and transparency in financial reports
2. A revised section in the Structure Handbook (page 109) to explain how to be treasurer – setting a prudent reserve, moving money down the structure on a regular basis. Section 4 on Group Money to also be revised (p 113)
3. Review contributions page on the website with information on Gift Aid and Legacies
4. Create display material for the groups that explain Tradition 7.
5. Continue investigating that GSO start charging for postage on free literature
6. GSB to continue reviewing our expenditure and addressing the Warranty 2 deficit
7. GSO to look at tax implications of running any payment system and provide relevant info to Regional Treasurers

***This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority***

### **3. Review revised Chapter 7 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe – AA in Prisons**

Revised amendments.... From Committee One and agreed by Zelma. Trustee for Prisons

#### 1. 7.2

Prison Groups

It is recommended that they have a minimum of 3 years **continuous** sobriety **and have a working knowledge of AA's 12 step programme of recovery and traditions.**

#### 2. 7.3

#### 3. Prison Postal Service

To become a prison postal sponsor you need 2 years **continuous** sobriety **and have a working knowledge of AA's 12 step programme of recovery and traditions.** Also, a support letter from either your home group, intergroup or Region.

7.2 revert to original as it was felt the new version weakens the message of AA

The paragraph should now read...

**As with all meetings, it is desirable that prison groups share their experience, strength and hope making reference to the AA programme of recovery using every opportunity to include the steps, traditions and the Big Book.**

This was unanimously agreed by Committee One.

***This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority***

### **4. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2027.**

The Committee elected Tania P, South Midlands Region as Chair of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2027.

### **5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2027.**

The Committee elected Julie P, Wales and Borders Region as Secretary of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2027

## COMMITTEE No. 2

CHAIR IAN C MIDLANDS REGION

SECRETARY SIMON P SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

1. **Would Conference share their experience, and consider the need to expand on the guidance provided in the Structure Handbook (page 119) with specific reference to children, minors and juveniles attending AA meetings?**

***What Issue Does This Proposal Address?***

Whilst the Fellowship has general safeguarding guidelines referencing this matter, it is felt that the Fellowship would benefit from sharing its experience on this subject given the increasing needs of parents/guardians to bring their children to the meetings they attend, as well as children, minors and juveniles attending meetings in their own right.

***Background Material***

AA Structure Handbook for GB 2025/26 - page 119

***How Will the Alcoholic Who Still Suffers Benefit .....***

Although groups are autonomous, by sharing their experience how we might accommodate parents/guardians and their children in meetings we will make our meetings more accessible to those with parental demands.

By making it clearer how best the Fellowship can support children, minors and juveniles who may suffer from alcoholism we will be helping our members to be of maximum service to those so affected.

This Committee acknowledges that there are two distinct circumstances in which children, minors and juveniles may attend AA meetings, and recognises that each calls for consideration.

6.6 Safeguarding Children and Juveniles i.e. an alcoholic parent or guardian accompanied by a child.

There is the potential for tension between:

- a) The parent or guardian needs to access recovery.
- b) Other members' freedom to participate or share openly e.g. anonymity.

Groups may wish to reflect on this through their group conscience process. Specifically have a plan in advance.

6.7 Minors Attending AA i.e. young people attending in their own right.

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. A young person who meets this requirement is welcome in AA. Groups are encouraged to hold a group conscience to consider how best to create an environment in which a young person can feel safe and supported.

The committee recommends that the existing guidance be reviewed by the GSB and take into consideration the expressed experience of the Fellowship regarding children, minors and juveniles including:

1. Group conscience
2. Plan to be prepared
3. Insurance
4. Safeguarding concerns
5. Venue safety
6. Anonymity

Relevant Traditions - Four (group autonomy), Five (primary purpose) and Three (the only requirement for membership). Any supplementary guidance produced should take care to respect group autonomy, offering experience rather than direction, while being clear that safeguarding obligations exist independently of AA's principles.

Vote: Unanimous.

*This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority*

2. **Would Conference discuss how the Conference process could be made more attractive, inclusive, and engaging for the Fellowship, so that all members and groups feel connected to, and part of, the way AA's collective conscience is expressed?**

### ***Background***

The General Service Conference is where AA's collective conscience is expressed for our Fellowship as a whole. Concept One tells us that the **final authority and responsibility rests with the groups**. But some members/groups feel distant from the process, unsure how to connect with it.

The aim is to help all members feel connected to our collective conscience.

AA GB Structure Handbook 2025/26:

Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain & Continental Europe – Section 6. The Twelve Concepts

The General Service Conference

General Service Conference Pamphlet

The committee discussed at length and identified a number of opportunities throughout the service structure by which the Conference process could be made more attractive, inclusive, and engaging for the Fellowship, including:

- a) Encouraging the Fellowship to engage with delegates to understand the Conference Process including at Conventions e.g. share, stand and/or workshop.

- b) Delegates sharing Conference experience enthusiastically in meetings, conventions and writing articles for AASN, Roundabout, Share and Arena.
- c) Supporting the submission of clear and concisely worded topics, motions or questions.
- d) Consider new ways of communicating questions and responses e.g. website content and links.
- e) Explaining, with examples, positive impacts of Conference e.g. ChatNow
- f) Continued Conference Steering Committee transparency.

“Alcoholics Anonymous is more than a set of principles; it is a Fellowship of alcoholics in action. Service is at the centre of every AA concept and activity. It is as fundamental to AA as abstinence is to sobriety. Without this giving of oneself to another, there would be no Fellowship.”

*The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe Pg 17*

Concept One places ultimate authority with the groups, but that authority is only meaningful if members and groups actually feel connected to the process.

Concept Two (delegation) and the principle that leadership in AA is one of service, not authority.

Specifically, Groups having a GSR is key to the whole service structure, and without a GSR most members of a Group will feel disconnected through a lack of information and guidance. Equally if intergroups do not have Region Representatives and regions don't have a full quota of Conference delegates, the communication flow in both directions is diluted.

The committee recommends that GSB review the information provided to Conference Delegates including General Service Conference Pamphlet e.g. consider adding a dedicated section on the role of the conference delegate including the important contribution that conference delegates can play both before and after Conference.

“While remembering that the best person for the job should be elected for the sake of AA as a whole, consideration should be given to ensuring that intergroups have easy access to a Conference delegate.”

*The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe Pg 138*

Vote: Unanimous.

***This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority***

### **3. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2027.**

The Committee elected Simon P, South Midlands Region as Chair of Committee 2 for Conference 2027.

### **4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2027**

The Committee elected James D, South West Scotland Region as Secretary of Committee 2 for Conference 2027.

## SIXTIETH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2026

# COMMITTEE No. 3

CHAIR                    CATH W                    HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION  
SECRETARY            ADAM G                    LONDON REGION NORTH

- 1. Does Conference believe 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?**

The conscience of Committee 3 recognises that while some fellows felt supported there is an understanding that we can always do more.

We discussed at length what more could be done and there were many repeated themes which included but were not limited to:

- a) Sponsorship
- b) Accessibility & Practical support e.g. technical
- c) PI & Health liaison officers
- d) Services for older people e.g. age concern
- e) Isolation
- f) Health & Well Being

We would make the following recommendations as to what more could be done to make our fellowship more accessible to older people:

1. Distributing existing literature and establishing relationships with relevant organisations e.g. Age UK, Befrienders, lunch clubs, bowls clubs, care homes etc.
2. Groups should ensure their accessibility information is kept up to date and correct via the 'group registration form' i.e. transport links, parking, hearing loops.
3. Assisting older members to attend in-person meetings and online meetings.
4. Groups, intergroup and regions might consider older person liaison officer/ representative.
5. Encourage older members to write stories and read Roundabout & Share magazines.
6. Ensure older people are represented in AA posters and other communications.
7. Groups are encouraged to be mindful that age does not indicate length of sobriety and to welcome each person without preconceived expectations.
8. Instruct that the Accessibility Working group explore access for older people including filters on the website.

The Committee would suggest groups bear in mind that not all older people are computer literate and may find online meetings and the 'Where to find' difficult. They may also find online meetings hard to access, and they may prefer daytime meetings especially during the winter

when getting to a meeting is more difficult. Ensure assistance is available at the meetings making sure the older person feels comfortable.

As part of our discussion our committee acknowledged the importance of National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (N.I.C.E) CG115, (see 1.3.1.7) & Cochrane Report: Alcohol and Older People - A Silent Epidemic - AA Service News (Winter 2024) - Dr Kieran Moriarty (NA Trustee).

Foot note:

Some groups questioned why we were looking at this topic and suggested that we should be looking for the similarities not the differences.

The vote was unanimous.

For: 17

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

*This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority*

**2. Would Conference consider and share their experience of how the Fellowship can improve its understanding and application of the 12 Concepts within Service?**

Committee 3 shared their experience, and it was felt the concepts are often overlooked due to a perception that they are irrelevant within some service levels. We would like to make the following recommendations as to how the Fellowship can improve its understanding and application of the 12 Concepts within Service.

- a. The committee has reviewed existing resources and found them to be fit for purpose e.g. video, 12 Concepts checklist & the Twelve Concepts for Service in Great Britain (illustrated) <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/about-aa/what-is-aa/12-concepts/> & page 30 of AA Structure Handbook 2025/26
- b. Request that the web master make the video as linked above easier to find on the website and GSB share this with the wider Fellowship
- c. Hold workshops and encourage these to be promoted within the Fellowship.
- d. Concept scrolls to be made available to purchase individually.
- e. Groups could consider including Concepts at their meetings.
- f. We encourage those members that have a working knowledge of the Concepts to share their experience with other members.
- g. Request the webmaster to investigate the viability of meetings being filtered by a specific theme such as 'Concepts'.
- h. We considered it worthwhile to conduct regular inventories at all service levels.

The committee had an extensive discussion that the GSB should lead by example in the application of the 12 Concepts.

The vote was unanimous.

*This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority*

**3. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2027**

The Committee elected Adam G, London Region North as Chair of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2027.

**4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2027**

The Committee elected Liz L, North East Region as Secretary of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2027.

## SIXTIETH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2026

# COMMITTEE No. 4

CHAIR

ANGELA Y

GLASGOW REGION

SECRETARY

SUZIE C

NORTH WEST REGION

1. **Would the Fellowship discuss and share experience regarding how we might strengthen our practical application of Tradition One — “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity” — so that we maintain safety and unity within AA, and avoid the need to use the term “safeguarding” in our literature?**

When applied practically, Tradition One leads us to create safe, welcoming environments, in which the still-suffering alcoholic can recover.

In recent years, Conference discussion has given rise to literature being created by the General Service Board and subsequently approved by conference it can be found in the Structure Handbook page 115 – 123.

The General Service Board (as a charity) is required by law to hold a Safeguarding Policy. Some members believe that the Fellowship itself should not be seen to adopt external policy, frameworks, or use terms like safeguarding as they may compromise AA traditions.

If groups use this question to discuss their practise of common welfare and share with conference their conclusions and suggestions, then we will strengthen the daily practical application of Tradition 1, and meetings service structures sponsorship and fellowship life, so AA continues to offer a safe and unified environment in which our primary purpose Tradition 5 can be fulfilled.

Tradition 1 (Short Form and Long Form)

**It is the conscience of Committee 4 that we might strengthen our practical application of Tradition One through the following recommendations:**

Establishing a Working Group to:

- Create a Pamphlet for individual members & groups (a condensed version of Chapter "The Group", Sections 5-8 in the Structure Handbook)

Promoting and encouraging the following activities:

1. Groups take regular Step 10 inventories
2. Run workshops at Intergroup level
3. Run Tradition workshops at intergroup level

**In relation to the use of the term Safeguarding:**

Our committee does not support the avoidance of the term "safeguarding" within our literature as agreed by a majority, however, Committee 4 recommends through the Working Group:

\*Correcting the current *Safeguarding / Medical Advice card* (on the website shop) with reference to safeguarding policy / use the correct image of the card on the website

Vote: 14 For, 2 Against

***This recommendation was passed with a simple majority***

A minority opinion from the floor that safeguarding legislation does not apply to Alcoholics Anonymous, and we fear that the committee recommendation is not only uninformed, misinformed and hasty, but that any pamphlet will only erode and undermine our three legacies and damage Alcoholics Anonymous for future generations.

**2. Would Conference share members experience of the safeguarding role at all levels of the service structure to inform a role description and sobriety length for the Service Handbook.**

**Guidance would ensure those in safeguarding roles are of maximum benefit/service in supporting the groups to adhere to healthy safeguarding practises in their meetings. This in turn would enable the group to better carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, protect the newcomer, members and the fellowship as a whole**

**AA structure Handbook. Chapter 5 - The Group - Safeguarding and Personal Conduct**

As a committee we agreed that we did not have enough experience through our regions to create a definitive role description.

However, we recommend that a role/function description is fully developed by the "Working Group" (refer to Q1 suggestion).

We ask the working group to consider the following Principles:

Listening and supporting, not Investigating  
Signposting not solving  
Guiding not governing  
Collective responsibility, not an individual role.

Vote: Unanimous

***This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority***

A minority opinion from the floor that safeguarding legislation does not apply to Alcoholics Anonymous, and we fear that the committee recommendation is not only uninformed, misinformed and hasty, but that any defined role will only erode and undermine our three legacies and damage Alcoholics Anonymous for future generations.

In addition, in our literature. Bill says that service is anything that enables the message to be carried, and that if it is not needed, we should discard it. Such a role does nothing to enable the message to be carried. So, we don't need it and we don't want it, and it must be rejected, as it's been outlined by conference and our group's responses to previous questions, the group conscience is the most effective way of dealing with problems.

**3. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2027.**

The Committee elected Reuben S, East of Scotland Region as Chair of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2027.

**4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2027.**

The Committee elected Michael O, London South Region as Secretary of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2027.

## SIXTIETH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2026

# COMMITTEE No. 5

CHAIR                      GARY H                      GLASGOW REGION

SECRETARY                PHILL O                      EASTERN REGION

1. **Would Conference consider the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Alcoholics Anonymous, and more specifically:**
  - i. **How AI might assist the Fellowship in carrying out its primary purpose**
  - ii. **What risks AI may pose to AA, especially regarding anonymity, data privacy and automation**
  - iii. **Whether shared experience and/or guidance is needed to help ensure any use of AI remains in line with AA's Traditions and spiritual principles**

The conscience of Committee 5 is:

AA will always be based on personal experience, **ONE ALCOHOLIC TALKING TO ANOTHER**. However, AI is happening now. Although our Fellowship has survived previous technological change over its 91 years, this challenge appears to be significant. It is therefore necessary that the Fellowship starts to address this.

- a. **How AI might assist the Fellowship in carrying out its primary purpose:**

AI can, and is, being used to assist in serving our primary purpose, but ought **NEVER** replace one alcoholic talking to another.
- b. **What risks AI may pose to AA, especially regarding anonymity, data privacy and automation:**
  1. Dilution of the message e.g. sponsorship and literature
  2. Anonymity
  3. Use of data (privacy)
  4. Risk of misrepresentation (deliberate/accidental)
  5. Lack of understanding in the Fellowship
  6. Lack of personal responsibility
  7. Lack of accountability / control over AI
- c. **Whether shared experience and/or guidance is needed to help ensure any use of AI remains in line with AA's Traditions and spiritual principles.**

The Committee has very mixed experience of AI, and there is an urgent need for guidelines and guardrails. We suggest that these are brought back to Conference 2027.

The provision of guidelines and guardrails should be incorporated into the service structure of AAGB, and it is suggested that this be led by the PI and EComms Sub-committee. It is also strongly suggested that they draw on the expertise and experience of the wider Fellowship, wherever possible, in order to support this.

Through its shared experience the Committee recognises that AI has the potential to help further improve the effectiveness of our service administration.

Other considerations:

1. Cost and our current financial position
2. Speed of our actions given technological advances
3. Technical capability
4. Environmental changes

*Voting: Substantial unanimity (14 for 2 against)*

***This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority***

**2. Would Conference share its experience on the importance of the Greeter role at our meetings, and make recommendations for inclusion in the Structure Handbook.**

The conscience of Committee 5 is:

It is the experience of the Committee that the role of the greeter is vital and should be included in the Structure Handbook.

The following points are recommended as part of the description:

1. First point of welcome to the group and potentially AA
2. Make introductions
3. If possible two people as greeters

In making this recommendation we fully recognise the 4<sup>th</sup> Tradition, the autonomy of each group, its resources, its conscience and its responsibilities to keep all attendees safe. We rely on the Literature sub-committee to determine the final wording.

*Voting: Unanimously passed*

***This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority***

**3. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2027**

The Committee elected Sally H, North West Region as Chair of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2027.

**4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2027**

The Committee elected Rawiri C, London Region North as Secretary of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2027.

## SIXTIETH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2026

# COMMITTEE No. 6

CHAIR                      PHIL S                      EASTERN REGION  
SECRETARY                BARRY McL                SCOTIA REGION

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?**

Committee 6 strongly concludes that Conference cannot 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.

It also concluded that The Big Book, The Doctor's Opinion, the chapter Working with Others and Living Sober already offer guidance relating to how members in recovery may engage socially within wider society.

This committee concluded that it would be a hazardous deviation from AA Tradition for Conference to give any view on alcohol free beers, wines and spirits. Respecting Traditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10 and in accordance with Article 3 of the Conference Charter of Great Britain. Tradition Ten is clear that Alcoholics Anonymous expresses no opinion on outside issues,

*"No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever".*

The protection offered by this Tradition lies not only in our intent, but in how our actions and discussions may be perceived.

Unanimously agreed.

*This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority*

2. **Review revised Chapter 8 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe – Probation/Criminal Justice Social Work Services (CJSWS)**

AA Service Handbook

Chapter Eight: Probation/ Community Justice ~~Social Work~~ Services (CJS)

(All page tabs delete Criminal and insert Community and delete CJSWS and insert CJS)

1. **Introduction**
2. **Groups**
3. **Probation/CJS Liaison officers (& Chit System)**

### 3.1 General points

### 3.2 Setting up a Confirmation of Attendance or 'Chit' system

### 3.3 Intergroup Probation/CJS Liaison Officers

### 3.4 Regional Probation/CJS Liaison Officers

## 4. The General Service Board's Probation/CJS Sub-Committee

Co-operation with the probation service, social work services, approved premises, courts, police ~~forces~~ services and legal professionals are included in the remit of probation/community justice services liaison officers. It is recognised that there are variations in geographical areas in how different agencies operate.

### 8:1 Introduction

Experience has shown that positive results can follow when groups, intergroups and regions co-operate with the community justice services with a view to helping the still suffering alcoholic.

In our pamphlet 'AA as a resource for Criminal Justice Professionals' the following appears:

*'Where links between an individual's offending, and/or reoffending and drinking have been identified, case officers can ensure that these people are made aware that AA exists and that we might be able to help them. This starts the offender's potential newcomer's recovery journey. Some do not engage with our solution immediately, but many eventually return after that first contact.'*

A good working relationship between AA and community justice services often takes many months and sometimes years to build. Experience shows that, as in many areas of service, setting up a system of co-operation is most likely to prove successful if patience and perseverance are practised.

### 8:2 Groups

**(Refer to section 'The Group' of 'The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe'.)**

Tradition Five tells us that "Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Sometimes the way in which a person enters AA may seem unorthodox, controversial or even in breach of our Traditions. However, a closer look will show us that AA is not interested in how a person comes to us but simply in how we can help in that person's recovery from alcoholism. Each group is autonomous and how it chooses to co-operate (if at all) with community justice services is for the group conscience to decide. One method could be the participation of the group in the confirmation of attendance or 'chit' system, the details of which may be found in Section 8:3.2 below.

## **8:3 Probation/CJS Liaison Officers**

### **8:3.1 General points**

#### **Resources**

It is hoped that each liaison officer will be sponsored into service and passed relevant information by the person who is rotating out of office. To support liaison officers AA has prepared a liaison officers pack: Probation/CJS available from GSO and in the AAGB website's Documents Library.

All liaison officers should familiarise themselves with:

- The Twelve Traditions
- 'The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain C Continental Europe' and 'The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe'.
- 'Liaison officers Pack: Probation/CJS'
- The leaflet 'AA as a resource for Criminal Justice Professionals'. This leaflet is included in the 'website Documents Library and can be purchased as AA literature.
- AA website and what it has to offer those involved in this area of service.

The AAGB website [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk) has a section to assist liaison officers, in the Members' Area//Service/Disciplines. The section 'Probation/Community Justice Services' carries background information, news about recent and forthcoming events, and links to resources such as the liaison officers pack and stories from members, the website will be updated in the event of significant changes within the probation/criminal justice systems. The website also has a section carrying information for professionals in the Legal/ Community Justice area.

#### **Co-operation across AA**

It is suggested that the liaison officers work closely with their AA colleagues in other service areas, particularly those in Prison Liaison and Public Information. They may also need to co-operate across intergroup and regional boundaries, as a community justice service may cover an area which includes more than one AA intergroup, or region.

A number of intergroups and regions have found it valuable to encourage the setting up of small teams to assist liaison officers and to provide local contacts across the larger community justice services areas.

#### **Budgets and expenses**

(Refer to section 'AA Money' in 'The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe'.)

It is suggested that liaison officers should prepare annual budgets for their service activities. These should be prepared according to the established procedures of each individual intergroup or region. They might include sums for travel to regional assemblies, the purchase of AA literature for placing in community justice services premises and courts' offices and other places, travel to national events like the regional officers meeting or a Probation/CJS Seminar, and any projects planned for the following year.

The payment of expenses depends upon the group conscience of the region or intergroup, always bearing in mind our Tradition of self-support.

- Service is defined as that which makes the Twelfth Step possible
- It is agreed that no expenses should be claimed for individual 'face-to-face' Twelfth Step work

In principle, any member who is qualified to carry out a particular task in our service should not be prevented from doing so for financial reasons and should be offered expenses.

When carrying out an intergroup or region function, duly authorised members should be offered expenses. For a variety of reasons regions and intergroups will probably differ in their approach to this question, and there may be no uniformity, but there need be no controversy if decisions are taken in the spirit of AA and with common sense.

### **8:3.2 Setting up a Confirmation of Attendance or 'Chit' System**

The confirmation of attendance system, often called 'the chit system' is simply a scheme to let people have a document to show that they have attended a particular meeting. That person can then give the confirmation to community justice managers, social services, an employer, or any other body. Groups and their members do not need to know why a person is requesting a chit.

The system was endorsed by Conference 1987 as being within the Traditions and operates without compromising anyone's anonymity. It is up to the person requesting the chits to report on themselves to whoever is supervising them.

In other words, the use of 'chits' is AA's well-established system of self-reporting. Chits do not guarantee sobriety, they just confirm attendance at an AA meeting, and no one is forced to attend an AA meeting either.

The intergroup probation/CJ Liaison Officer can be invited to attend any meeting to explain the chit system. Each group that agrees to participate tells their Intergroup so, and the P/CJ Liaison Officer would add that group's details to the list of participating groups prepared for the local Community Justice service. It is recommended that the Intergroup secretary also keeps a record of the groups participating to ensure continuity of service.

Any **safeguarding** concerns are best addressed through the Group Conscience and guidance sought from the AAGB website and current Structure Handbook. Where there is a **Safeguarding representative appointed and/or** Probation/CJS **Liaison** officer they can be consulted.

Some intergroups now choose to keep supplies of blank chits for groups.

Blank chits are available free of charge from GSO and can be requested by any group, intergroup or regional officer. They are printed with anti-counterfeit ink and use the group's number as a 'signature' thereby ensuring the anonymity of the member filling them out. They will only be posted out to a group, intergroup or regional officer's address already registered with GSO, so before requesting any please ensure that your contact and the group's registration details are up to date. via 'The Group Information Registration and Update Meeting Form'.

Details of setting up and running a confirmation of attendance/chit system are given in AA's 'Liaison officers Pack: Probation/CJS' available from GSO and on the AAGB website's Probation / Community justice section and the Documents Library.

### 8:3.3 Intergroup Probation/CJS Liaison Officer

(Refer to section 'The Intergroup' of 'The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe'.) It is through the intergroup that the liaison officer is elected.

It is recommended that the intergroup Probation/CJS liaison officers should have ideally at least two years' continuous sobriety when elected and should serve for a maximum of three years.

The main tasks of the intergroup Probation/CJS liaison officer are:

- Asking their intergroup to register their appointment with GSO and use their allocated aemail account.
- Obtaining and reading the 'Liaison officers Pack: Probation/CJS' and using it as the liaison officer feels appropriate, and using the AA website's section on Probation/ CJS Liaison for information and resource material
- to establish/maintain links in the intergroup area with:
  - Community justice services dealing with non-custodial sentences
  - Approved premises (APs) and probation delivery units (PDUs)
  - Magistrates, local courts and court officers
  - Police forces services
  - Solicitors' organisations
  - Other professionals having regular contact with potential newcomers
- Report to each intergroup meeting by the Probation/ CJS liaison officer to keep intergroup informed on a regular basis. A copy of each intergroup report should be sent to the regional Probation/CJS liaison officer, who should be kept informed of developments in the intergroup.
- Maintaining records of local service initiatives & professional & fellowship contacts, to ensure continuity of service at rotation.
- Attending regional workshops when available, and keeping in contact with the regional liaison officer
- Attending AA's national probation/ community justice seminars when these are arranged.

Some intergroups have a flourishing relationship with their local community justice service departments. In others there will have been little contact. It is for each Probation/ CJS liaison officer to decide the best way of taking the role forward. Some suggested methods are as follows:

- Setting up a committee or team to assist in the work and to twelfth step any people who are on probation in England or Wales or involved with community justice services in Scotland.
- Establishing a named contact in each local community justice service office in the area, and with the courts service, police and other organisations
- Distributing approved AA literature and posters for display in community justice service offices, approved premises, court offices and police stations, and to be given by them to potential newcomers. Material given to potential newcomers might include stories from AA members who have encountered similar problems, which are available from the AA website and AA members involved in prisons service.
- Attending meetings with individuals and teams in the community justice services to inform them of how AA works and what it does and does not do.

- Attending similar meetings with courts staff, solicitors, the police etc.
- Arranging to provide speakers for information sessions, perhaps with the help of members who have experienced aspects of the community justice system. The message from previous offenders who have changed the direction of their lives after finding AA and stopping drinking is a very powerful one. (Note: some sites have enhanced security restrictions that may prevent members with certain or recent offences from visiting)
- Asking the subcommittee for help when there is no regional liaison officer in place.

### 8:3.4 Regional Probation/CJS Liaison Officer

(Refer to section 'The Region' in 'The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe'.)

It is through the regional assembly that the regional Probation/CJS Liaison Officer is elected, ideally though not essentially being a member with some experience at intergroup level.

It is recommended that Probation/CJS Liaison officer should have at least three years' continuous sobriety at the time of election, that the officer should serve for a maximum of three years and be confirmed in post annually. Consideration should be given to their personal experience.

The main tasks of the regional Probation/CJS liaison officer are to:

- Attend regional assembly meetings with report
- Attend the annual regional Probation/CJS liaison officers meeting in York
- Obtain and read the 'Liaison officers Pack: Probation/CJS' and use the AA website section on Probation/CJS Liaison for information and resource material
- Communicate with intergroup liaison officers within the region and to collate information from them into a report to be given at each regional assembly
- Send a copy of each such report to [aainformation@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@gsogb.org.uk)
- Encourage intergroups where liaison activity is slow or non-existent to seek members to undertake service in this area
- Offer support and encouragement to intergroup Probation/CJS liaison officers especially those new to the role and those taking up previously vacant positions
- Communicate with the designated member of the Board's Probation/CJS Subcommittee
- Liaise with community justice services at a senior level, as frequently the services will have responsibility for an area which will include several intergroups
- Liaise with other regions in co-ordinating approaches to community justice services whose areas extend across regional boundaries
- Attend AA's national Probation/CJS Seminars when these occur

Experience has shown the following activities to be helpful:

- Holding Probation/CJS workshops at regional level, where all the liaison officers and those with an interest are invited to share their experience, and to encourage others into service
- Visiting intergroups and groups when requested for help, assistance or guidance
- Supporting intergroups in attempts to set up contact and co-operation with their local ~~potential newcomer's management~~ community justice service

- Setting up effective links between intergroup and regional liaison officers to share experience and offer mutual encouragement and support between regional assemblies and workshops and also establishing links with the designated member of the Board's Probation/CJS Sub-Committee.

#### **8:4 The General Service Board's Probation/CJS Sub-Committee**

The Probation/CJS Sub-Committee is chaired by the Trustee for Probation/ CJS and has up to seven other members.

The main purpose of the Probation / CJS subcommittee is to assist the GSB in supporting the fellowships structure in its service work. This includes raising awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous and its services through cooperation with Probation/ CJS agencies at a national level.

Its objectives include:

- Developing and maintaining resources for liaison officers
- Disseminating information on Probation/CJS through the Fellowship
- Offering advice, support and encouragement to regional liaison officers; organising such meetings of regional and intergroup liaison officers as may be necessary.
- Developing and maintaining appropriate resources for liaison officers, including those contained in the Probation/Community Justice Services sections of the AAGB website.
- Working with the prison sub-committee to ensure that the message of AA is available across the entire community justice system and where possible meet in person at the same time as the Prison sub-committee.
- Assist in the implementation of Conference recommendations.
- Each member has been asked to work closely with a particular group of regions, and contact details are sent out to regions. Regional liaison officers are encouraged to contact members of the Sub-Committee for suggestions, advice, support and guidance, and intergroups in regions without a regional liaison officer should not hesitate to make direct contact with members.

The Sub-Committee's email address is: [infoprobation.sc@aamail.org](mailto:infoprobation.sc@aamail.org)

~~Revised Oct 2025~~

Revised April 2026

**Unanimously agreed**

*This recommendation was passed with a two-thirds plus majority*

### **3. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2027.**

The Committee elected Sandra Mac, Wales & Border Region as Chair of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2027.

### **4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2027.**

The Committee elected Anna D, South Midlands Region as Secretary of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2027.

## SIXTIETH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2026

### LIST OF DELEGATES

**CONFERENCE CHAIR:**

**RICHARD P-S (South West Region)**

### GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

			<b>COMMITTEE NUMBER</b>	<b>TERM OF SERVICE</b>
Jo	F			
Holly	A		2	
Tim	B		5	
Charon	B		3	
John	C		1	
Carmel	G		6	
Max	J		4	
Zelma	K		3	
Jim	M		3	
Hamish	McS		6	
Levey	P		2	
Tony	S		1	
Gretchen	S		4	
Vikki	C	(Elect)	2	
Jane	C	(Elect)	4	
Billy	D	(Elect)	3	
Pragnya	G	(Elect)	6	
Jim	K	(Elect)	2	
Matt	S	(Elect)	5	
Billy	T	(Elect)	6	
Emma Gipson			1	
Graham Duncan			2	
Mike Newton			1	
Jill Tolfrey			4	
Hassan Zaidi			5	
Gillian Edwards	(Elect)		1	
Carol Morrison	(Elect)		4	

### GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Ranjan B                      General Secretary  
Sharon Smyth  
Sophie Wright  
Jenny Pryke  
Chris North  
Mandy Tervet  
Emma W  
Gillian Thompson  
Anne-Marie S

**COMMITTEE  
NUMBER**

**TERM OF  
SERVICE**

**EASTERN REGION**

Steve	C	1	2
Kevin	D	2	3
Laura	W	3	2
John	C	4	1
Phill	O	5	2
Phil	S	6	3

**LONDON REGION NORTH**

Mick	J	1	1
Fifi	A	2	1
Adam	G	3	2
Simon	M	4	1
Rawiri	J	5	1
Michelle	McG	6	1

**LONDON REGION SOUTH**

Nigel	M	1	A
Woody	A	2	1
Neil	M	3	1
Michael	O	4	1
Rose	W	5	3
Victor	T	6	2

**MIDLANDS REGION**

Alex	Mc	1	3
Ian	C	2	3
Patricia	C	3	1
Andy	P	4	2
Jeff	A	5	A
Richard	T	6	2

**NORTH EAST REGION**

Mark	T	1	3
Chris	W	2	A
Liz	L	3	1
Joanne	H	4	2
Jerry	B	5	3
Mark	W	6	1

		<b>COMMITTEE NUMBER</b>	<b>TERM OF SERVICE</b>
<b>NORTH WEST REGION</b>			
Kim	S	1	1
Sheila	E	2	2
Catherine	C	3	1
Suzie	C	4	2
Sally	H	5	2
Tom	B	6	1

### **SOUTH EAST REGION**

Stuart	L	1	1
Marie	L	2	3
Steve	E	3	3
Martin	S	4	3
Richard	D P	5	2
Vanessa	H	6	3

### **SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION**

Tania	P	1	2
Simon	P	2	2
Craig	M	3	1
Stephen	L	4	1
Paul	A	5	1
Anna	D	6	2

### **SOUTH WEST REGION**

David	H	1	3
Amanda	B	2	A
Jill	S	3	A
		4	
Laura	G	5	1
Mathew	D	6	A

### **WALES & BORDERS REGION**

Julie	P	1	2
Carol	N	2	2
		3	
Mik	N	4	3
		5	
Sandra	Mac	6	2

**COMMITTEE  
NUMBER****TERM OF  
SERVICE****EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION**

Helen	K	1	1
Richard	D	2	1
Hunter	H	3	2
Reuben	S	4	2
Gordon	F	5	2
Ronnie	M	6	1

**GLASGOW REGION**

John	C	1	1
Del	F	2	A
Craig	C	3	1
Angela	Y	4	3
Gary	H	5	3
Mark	McN	6	1

**HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION**

Becca	C	1	3
Ian	M	2	3
Cath	W	3	3
Martin	E	4	1
		5	
		6	

**SCOTIA REGION**

Sarah	R	1	2
		2	
Charlie	Q	3	3
		4	
Jemma	E	5	2
Barry	McL	6	2

**SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION**

Scott	R	1	3
James	D	2	1
		3	
		4	
June	N	5	2
		6	

**COMMITTEE  
NUMBER****TERM OF  
SERVICE****CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION**

Marketa	K	1	2
Elizabeth	B	2	3
Gillian	S	3	3
Marisa	C	4	3
Sarah	V	5	1
Ian	McD	6	1

**OBSERVERS**

Lidiana	V	(Bulgaria)	2	1
Pascal	D	(Belgium – Flemish)	4	1
Simona	K	(Czech Republic)	4	1
Annette	V	(Denmark)	5	1
Sándor	F A	(Hungary)	2	1
Audrey	M	(Ireland)	4	1
Joanne	M	(Ireland)	6	1
Gunta	B	(Latvia)	5	1
Grzegorz	Ł	(Poland)	3	1
Paula	B	(Portugal)	6	1
Emre	O A	(Turkey)	1	1

## Glossary of Abbreviations Used

AA	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
AAA	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness</i>
AASN	-	<i>AA Service News</i>
AAWS	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous World Services</i>
ASL	-	<i>American Sign Language</i>
ASLO	-	<i>Armed Services Liaison Officer</i>
BSL	-	<i>British Sign Language</i>
CER	-	<i>Continental European Region</i>
CMS	-	<i>Content Management System</i>
CSC	-	<i>Conference Steering Committee</i>
DAAT	-	<i>Drug and Alcohol Teams</i>
ECLO	-	<i>Electronic Communication Liaison Officer</i>
ECSC	-	<i>Electronic Communication Sub Committee</i>
ELO	-	<i>Employment Liaison Officer</i>
ESM	-	<i>European Service Meeting</i>
GSB	-	<i>General Service Board</i>
GSO	-	<i>General Service Office</i>
GSR	-	<i>Group Service Representative</i>
HLO	-	<i>Health Liaison Officer</i>
HSC	-	<i>Health Sub Committee</i>
MOJ	-	<i>Ministry of Justice</i>
NAT	-	<i>Non-Alcoholic Trustee</i>
NHS	-	<i>National Health Service</i>
NICE	-	<i>National Institute for Clinical Excellence</i>
NNC	-	<i>Northern National Convention</i>
NOMS	-	<i>National Offender Management Service</i>
NSO	-	<i>Northern Service Office</i>
NTA	-	<i>National Treatment Agency</i>
ORS	-	<i>Online Response Service</i>
PI	-	<i>Public Information</i>
PLO	-	<i>Prison Liaison Officer</i>
PPS	-	<i>Prison Postal Service</i>
PR	-	<i>Public Relations</i>
P/SS	-	<i>Probation/Social Services</i>
RECLO	-	<i>Regional Electronic Communication Liaison Officer</i>
RELO	-	<i>Regional Employment Liaison Officer</i>
RTLO	-	<i>Regional Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
SC	-	<i>Sub Committee</i>
SPPS	-	<i>Scottish Prison Postal Service</i>
SPS	-	<i>Scottish Prison Service</i>
SSAFA	-	<i>Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen &amp; Families Association</i>
SSASM	-	<i>Sub Saharan Africa Service Meeting</i>
SSO	-	<i>Southern Service Office</i>
TLO	-	<i>Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
TOR	-	<i>Terms of Reference</i>
YPLO	-	<i>Young Peoples Liaison Officer</i>
YPP	-	<i>Young People Project</i>

## The Twelve Traditions

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers.
9. AA as such, ought never be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.