

**MINUTES OF NORTH WEST INTERGROUP MEETING HELD AT
CATTERALL VILLAGE HALL, GARSTANG ROAD, CATTERALL, PR3 1XN
ON SUNDAY 10th August 2025 at 12.30 pm**

THE NWIG BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS ARE: -	
Name of Bank	Unity Trust Bank
Name of Account	North West Intergroup
Sort Code	60 – 83 - 01
Account Number	20464532

Officer's Present:

Chair	Phil H	1
Secretary	Chris D	2
Treasurer	Jed C	3
ECLO	Neil D	4
HLO	Nigel C	5
Region Rep 1	Duncan	6
Region Rep 2	Catherine C	7

GSRs Present: -

Adam D	Tarleton Friday	8
Adrian T	Morecambe St Mary's Friday and Sunday	9
Andy F	Lancaster Arch to Freedom	10
Barrie H	Chorley Friday	11
Cal C	Carnforth Tuesday	12
Cat H	Adlington (Chorley) Friday	13
Chris D	Settle	Secretary
Duncan M	Carlisle Monday	Region Rep
Ed B	Leyland Young Persons meeting	14
Elaine C	Lancaster Saturday morning	15
Gemma E	Barrow Road to Recovery	16
Jim F	Longridge	17
Jim T	Bartle Beginners	18
Jo W	Kendal	19
Margaret	Lancaster Saturday, St Chads	20
Mark C	Chorley – St Gregory Big Book, Saturday	21
Michael A	Chorley - Monday	22
Nigel	Fleetwood	HLO
Paul N	Carlisle Thursday	23
Phil H	Garstang Friday	Chair
Terry W	Chorley, St Chads	24
Tom B	Garstang Monday	25

Visitors Present: -

Derek H (1)	Leyland Thursday	26
Geoff (2)	Wheelton	27
Louise W (3)	Barrow Road to Recovery	28
Ollie (4)	Leyland Young Persons meeting	29

Richard F (5)	Garstang Mon / Fri	30
Scott H (6)	Birkdale	31
Simon W (7)	Lancaster Arch to Freedom	32
Steve W (8)	Chorley – St Chads (Alternate GSR)	33

Attending remotely: -

	NWIG Officer / GSR for	Visiting From	
Dawn (9)	-	Lancaster	34
Debs	TLO	-	35
Suzanne M	GSR	Lancaster Living Sober	36
?	GSR		37
?	GSR		38

1

Introduction: -

Welcome	By Phil.
Thanks to the providers of technical support	Neil and Jed.
Thanks to the refreshment helper	Scott.
Introductions	Around the table and remotely.
Preamble	Read by Cath C.
Traditions	Read by Tom.
Declaration of Unity	Read by Paul.
Aims of Intergroup	Read by Phil.
Responsibility Statement	Read by Jim.
Number of members present	38
Number of members with voting rights	38 – 9 visitors = 29. (Adrian voted for two groups 29 + 1 = 30).
Signing in sheet	Phil reminded all to sign in please.

2

Clarification of who can vote at NWIG and count of those present with voting rights. (Including those zooming in).

COUNT OF VOTING RIGHTS = 30.

Note from the Secretary: This needs to be discussed again at next meeting in view of following paragraph in the Structure Handbook:

“It is a privilege to vote on issues that affect AA as a whole” (AA Service Manual for World Service, S25), and it is recommended that group members consider both when and how to vote, and how the principle of ‘One Member, One Vote.’ might apply. In order that representation is proportionate. P104 of 2024 version.

3

To receive apologies: -

Appleby – Jonathan; Penrith – Wendy; Penrith and Shap – Kath; Windermere – Liz; Preston Bartle Beginners – Lindsay; Late apologies from Suzie, Region Rep.

4

To agree the **Minutes** of the NWIG meeting of 8th May 2025. (Paper 2025/36)

Debs pointed out that NWIG did vote some time ago to require that telephone responders are familiar with the steps; but not with the steps AND traditions, as stated at item 10f of the 08/05/25 minutes.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of 8th May 2025 are accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the above correction.

Proposed by: Jed.

Seconded by: Duncan.

5

Chair's Report and any matters arising. (Paper 2025/37)

Report Received.

Matters arising: -

- There was a discussion about the benefits of holding a Service Workshop. The main points were: -
 - It was agreed in November 2022 to hold a One Day NWIG Service Workshop, and it was agreed to form a Committee to organise this event. However, the Committee were not able to meet and the event did not get off the ground.
 - Phil, Chris and Jenny gave presentations on service at the One Day NWIG Convention in 2023 instead. This was good, but not as good as a dedicated service workshop.
 - What we learnt from the last attempt is that members need to come forward and get involved if they want a Service Workshop to run.
 - It could be an opportunity to cover a number of things at the same event, for example: -
 - The importance of service within the fellowship,
 - The importance of service roles that reach out to the still suffering alcoholic,
 - Why and how the GSR role is critical,
 - The Traditions,
 - The Twelve Concepts for Service in Great Britain.
 - Some other IG's hold five meetings a year. Four for the normal quarterly business, and a fifth which is the AGM and at which they take a full inventory of the Conscience of the IG. It was suggested that it might be possible to combine a separate AGM, and IG conscience meeting with the Service Workshop and make a really good day of it. This is only a suggestion.
 - The Inspiring Service Committee may have considered organising a service workshop and it might be included in the committee's action plan.
 - Members were reminded that the Inspiring Service Committee would welcome more participants, particularly to make it more representative of the whole area covered by NWIG, which is huge.
 - It was stressed that any Service Workshop must be organised through IG and that any venue will need to be fairly central since members could be traveling from the top of Cumbria as well as from all the way down in Chorley and Southport.
- **RESOLVED: That Debs will take it back to the Inspiring Service Committee and see if it already has plans for organising this type of event, and if so, when.**
- **RESOLVED: To think about and consider further at the end of the meeting under AOB.**

6

Secretary's Report and any matters arising: -

- a) General report. (Paper 2025/38)
- Report received.
 - Actions from the last meeting were all completed.
 - Please ensure that you sign the attendance sheet before you leave – especially if you arrived after the meeting started.
 - There will have to be a cut-off date for the receipt of reports from NWIG Officers and GSR's, it will be the Sunday before the next IG meeting. Anything that arrives after that I will not be able to circulate; it's becoming way too complicated and time consuming. Get them to me two weeks before the meeting, if possible, please.
- b) To discuss the letter to the Board Trustees regarding the Important Unanswered Questions, the initial reply received and the follow up reply, and to agree a way forward. (Papers 2025/39 to 42)
- There was another lengthy discussion about what the important unanswered questions are, why they are important, and why the responses received from GSB to date are inadequate.
 - It was suggested that it would be helpful if details of how the finances are supposed to work could be covered at the Service Workshop, if one goes ahead.
 - Two different courses of action were explained and discussed; they were: -
 - Option One:
 - Invite the Chair of the Board (Jo), the Vice-chair (Gretchen), the Honorary Treasurer (Emma) and the NWR Trustee (Angela S) to attend a NWIG meeting asap to discuss the concerns and the lack of transparency, face-to-face with NWIG members. (Hopefully this would be either the meeting in November 2025 or the meeting in February 2026); and
 - Request a response to the invitation within six weeks so that the next steps can be properly planned and/or taken before the next NWIG meeting which is in twelve weeks; and
 - If the invitation is not accepted within six weeks of being issued, send a complaint to the Charity Commission reporting the detailed concerns of members and the lack of action taken to adequately resolve those concerns by the Board.
 - Option Two:
 - Send the complaint to the Charity Commission reporting the detailed concerns of members and the lack of action taken to adequately resolve those concerns by the Board immediately, without requesting a meeting with the Board Members first.
 - It was agreed that it is not appropriate to include the General Secretary in the invitation, because it is not his responsibility to answer questions on finance.
 - **VOTE:** To proceed with option one – to invite the Board Members to a NWIG meeting to discuss the issues face-to-face.
 - For: 25
 - Against: 5
 - Abstentions: 0
 - **VOTE:** To proceed with option two – complain to Charity Commission now without inviting Board Members to NWIG.
 - For 6.
 - Against 24.
 - Abstentions: 0.

- **RESOLVED: That the Secretary will forward the invitation to the Board Members as detailed above. It will be sent tomorrow, 11th August 2025.**

7

Region Reports: -

- a) To receive the Minutes of the Region meeting of 8th June 2025. (Paper 2025/43)
Minutes Received.
- b) To receive verbal reports from the NWIG Region Reps.
Catherine explained that at the last NWR meeting the NWR Trustee stated that one of the matters that had been discussed that day would be a Question for Conference next year. In view of the fact that the deadline for submitting QFC for 2026 has not even expired yet, a question arises as to how anybody can know what any QFC 2026 will be. See item 9.
- c) To receive the Minutes from the Regional Chairs meeting at York on 4th and 5th July 2025. (Paper 2025/44)
Draft Minutes Received.
It was reported that NWR did not send anybody to the Regional Chairs meeting; that although the Chair and the Vice-Chair were not available to attend, Region could have sent another representative, such as the Region Secretary, so that we were represented. But no alternative arrangements were made because the Annual Regional Chairs meeting was not mentioned at Region. In addition to which no apologies were sent by NWR to the Annual Regional Chairs meeting.
- d) To consider the offer from the Regional Probation Officer (Tom) to attend a NWIG meeting to give a presentation on the Chit system. (Things to consider: Jed and Nigel probably know all there is to know about this – and should it wait until the Prison LO and Probation LO roles are filled?).
- **RESOLVED: To decline the offer from the Regional Probation Officer, because Jed and Nigel are fully conversant with the Chit system.**
 - **RESOLVED: Secretary to thank Tom very much for the offer.**
 - **RESOLVED: That Jed will explain the Chit system to Gemma from Barrow. (Chris pass on her contact details to Jed)**
- e) Any other matters arising.
None.

8

To consider **proposals from groups for expenditure on projects** to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

- No proposals have been received from any group.
- There was a further discussion about a Service Workshop. Main points: -
 - Use it to explain what each position involves.
 - Use it to explain the importance of submitting reports to NWIG.
 - It would be a great opportunity for LO's to meet up and collaborate.
 - Consider a Convention style delivery.
 - Consider making it a Road Show and travelling around the IG with it – but only AFTER an initial Service Workshop has been successfully planned and delivered.
- **Catherine C is happy to get involved and will arrange to meet the Inspiring Service Committee to see what they already have planned. (Thank you Catherine).**

- **Paul N from Carlise may get involved. (Chris pass his contact details to Catherine).**
- **Jim F from Longridge happy to get involved. (Chris pass his contact details to Catherine).**
- **See item 16.**

9

To receive feedback from groups on the **unapproved instruction to telephone responders and 12 steppers** that appeared on the AAGB website, and to agree a way forward.

- Catherine C expressed concern that when the unacceptable, and not conference approved, instruction to “Don’t visit people at home” was discussed at the Region meeting on 8th June 2025, that our NWR Trustee Angela S stated that it will be a Question for Conference next year, ie in 2026. Potential Questions for Conference can be submitted up to the end of August 2025. Meaning that all Q’sFC 2026 will not even have been received yet, let alone selected or rejected. How does Angela know what will, or will not, be a QFC in 2026?
- NWR agreed at its meetings on 01/12/24, 02/03/25 and 08/06/25 to ask GSB to remove the none conference approved instruction “not to visit people at home” from the 12 steppers and telephone responders’ guidance, and from the AAGB website. But the request was not sent. Catherin C therefore kindly drafted the required letter to GSB. It was passed to the Chair of NWR on 21/06/25, and it was finally sent on 09/07/25. To date the letter has only been acknowledged but not replied to.
- **VOTE:** That Catherine will continue to follow up on the position regarding a reply to the request from NWR to GSB for the statement “Don’t meet the still suffering alcoholic in their own home” to be removed from the National 12 Steppers Safeguarding Guidelines and the National Telephone Responders Training and Safeguarding Guidelines.
For: 20.
Against: 0.
Abstentions: 0.
- **RESOLVED: Catherine to continue to follow up on the request for the instruction “Don’t meet the still suffering alcoholic in their own homes” to be removed from all guidance, on behalf of NWIG.**

10

Liaison Officer Reports and matters arising: -

- Archivist (Charlie). (Paper 2025/45)
 - **Report received. No questions.**
- Armed Service LO (Sam). (Paper 2025/46)
 - **No report received.**
 - Two members passed on Sam’s resignation at today’s meeting.
 - Vacant role therefore added to today’s list of possible nominations for service positions.
- Electronic Communication LO (Neil). (Paper 2025/47)
 - **Report received. As read.**
- Health LO (Nigel). (Paper 2025/48)
 - Report received. As read.
 - The Radio advert has been received from NWR and will be used as much as possible.

- The Barrow Group has spoken to Barrow Hospital – Nigel will be in touch with Gemma regarding this.
- Like all LO's the HLO is awarded an annual budget to spent as they see fit. It is not necessary to ask for approval for each item of expenditure at an IG meeting, just spend the budget.
- HLO requested that the budget is increased from £300 to £400 for this year. Treasurer proposed increasing it to £500, which was agreed.
- For future consideration: As the cost of a starter pack is now £3, it is going to become extremely expensive to provide them to all hospitals in our enormous IG. If the hospital 12 step rotas continue to flourish it might be an idea to investigate whether NWIG could produce its own version of a starter pack at a lower cost.
- **RESOLVED: Increase the HLO budget to £500.**

e) Prison LO (VACANT: Phil covering). (Paper 2025/49a and 49B)

- **Report received.**
- It was reported that: -
 - The ordinary meeting is still running at Lancaster Farms, but the new (additional) 12 step meeting only ran for one week, and had to be closed for health and safety reasons.
 - NWIG recently became aware that there are now members going into Haverigg prison. Gemma confirmed that members are sharing their experience, strength and hope at Haverigg, and are not running a 12-step meeting or workshop.
 - This is absolutely great, well done the Barrow group. But it does demonstrate the need for service work to be co-ordinated through NWIG – and for this we need LO's in post – and for NWIG to be kept informed of all service developments please.
 - NWIG would never want to do anything to discourage members from getting involved and doing service, particularly in reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic. But it is part and parcel of safeguarding ourselves and each other, that service work is organised and/or coordinated via an IG. This is also important to prevent duplication of efforts, and to avoid the fellowship agreeing to deliver services and then being unable to do so. We must only promise what we can deliver, and IG should be available to step in and help if any service experiences problems, which it can only do if it is aware of what service is taking place.
 - We only have meeting in two prisons, out of five. (Haverigg and Lancaster)
 - Nigel is a prison postal sponsor. This is another way of doing service for members to consider.
- **Please take it back to groups: we need visitors to go in and share in the prisons, and we need a Prison Liaison Officer.**

f) Public Information LO (VACANT:). (Paper 2025/50)

- No NWIG PILO Report because position is vacant.
- Phil contacted Bay Trust Radio; they cover all the hospitals in Cumbria and maybe Chorley and Preston. We may be able to run our radio advert with them, but not sure yet if that will be free or if there will be a cost. Phil will find out and report back.
- Lancaster and Morecambe local PI event report received. Jed reported that: -
 - The event was not very well attended but a lot of learning has come out of it, and contacts.
 - Two more events are coming up; they are: -

- Contact with local Community Officers.
- Meeting with NW Region Probation Service on Teams. Will be speaking to Probation Officers in Carlisle.
- Jed has been monitoring the NWIG PILO email account since Kath resigned the role but needs to hand this back now. **Since there is no PILO in post it was agreed to redirect the emails to Chris as Secretary for now.**
- **Please take it back to your groups that we desperately need a PILO.**

g) Telephone LO (Debs). (Paper 2025/51)

- **Report Received.**

h) Young Persons LO (Vacant). (Paper 2025/52)

- **Report Received from Carla.**
- **Carla has had to resign this role because of family commitments.**
- **NWIG would like to thank Carla for all the hard work and energy that she has brought to this role over the last two years.**
- **There was a request for 15 Big Books for a Young Persons meeting, which was voted on and declined.**

11 Inspiring Service Sub-Committee Report. (Jenny and Debs). (Paper 2025/53)

- **Report received.**
- **Draft Gratitude in Action documents.**
 - **There are quite a few spelling mistakes.**
 - **This document needs seriously proof reading and amending.**

12 **Nominations for vacant service positions:** - (See the Service Handbook for details of the roles and requirements).

a	Employment Liaison Officer.	None.
b	NWIG 2026 Convention Convenor – please bring nominations.	None.
c	Prison Liaison Officer – please bring nominations.	None.
d	Probation Liaison Officer.	None.
e	Public Information Liaison Officer – please bring nominations.	None.
f	Share Liaison Officer.	None.
g	Vice-chair.	Catherine C.
h	Young Persons Liaison Officer.	Ed B.
i	ASLO.	None.

Please take details of all vacant roles back to groups.

13 **Election of Officers:** -

- **Catherine C was elected as Vice-chair.**
- **Ed B was elected as YPLO.**

14 **Officer positions becoming vacant within the next twelve months – take back to groups now please:**

- a) Region Rep – November 2025.
- b) ASLO – August 2026: Added to today's vacancy list after resignation received at today's meeting.

15 **GSR Reports.** (Paper 2025/54)

- **Received.**
- **NB: Note that the Kendal Monday meeting is in a new venue.**

16 **Any Other Business: -****Service Workshop:****RESOLVED: To form a committee and organise a Service Workshop.**17 **Finance: -**

a) To receive the Treasurers report. (Paper 2025/55)

- Report received.
- Receipts for contributions: -
 - The Treasurer does not issue receipts automatically.
 - But will always send a receipt if requested. Just add a request with the contribution details.
 - He will send a receipt for every contribution if IG regard that as necessary.
 - Perhaps a simple email acknowledging receipt of each contribution will suffice as a receipt.
- A breakdown (by group) of the gratitude contributions received of £878.44 can be provided.
- **VOTE:** On a proposal to withhold the gratitude week contributions while the important finance questions remain unanswered.
For: 18
Against: 6
Abstentions: 0
- **RESOLVED: To withhold the Gratitude Week Contributions at this time.**

b) To consider making a contribution of £1,000.00 to NWR to cover the insurance and conference delegate costs.

VOTE:

For: 19

Against: 4

Abstentions: 0

RESOLVED: Treasurer to make a contribution of £1000.00 to NWR.

c) To consider sending the excess of surplus funds over £1,000.00 to Region, or to continue to withhold.

The proposal was to continue to withhold the excess of surplus funds over £1000.00.**VOTE:**

For: 19

Against: 3

Abstentions: 0

RESOLUTION: To withhold the surplus funds over £1000.00 at this time.18 **Dates of next meetings: -**

10/08/2025	In person and online
09/11/2025	In person and online

Notes for GSRs to take back to groups:

- **Submit your group report to the Secretary by the Sunday before the next IG meeting at the latest. Reports received after the Sunday before the next IG meeting will not be circulated.**
- Can everybody carry on broadcasting that NWIG would be delighted to hear from the remaining groups for which we don't have contacts at the moment.
- Think about visiting Region – especially if you are considering becoming a Region Rep.
- Please put your group number on contribution's to NWIG so that they can be identified. Group ID in banking reference - please put in the first 4 or 5 characters of the reference
- **All groups are urged again to bring specific proposals to NWIG on how to use the surplus funds to reach the still suffering, along with details of exactly how they will actively participate in doing so.**
- If you have items to be added to the micro site, send them to the ECLO at ecomm.nwest@aamail.org
- Everybody interested in establishing a hospital 12-step list in their own area contact Nigel the HLO at health.nwest@aamail.org
- Consider visiting a prison meeting to share. (Contact Chairman Phil)
- Consider becoming a telephone responder. (Contact TLO Debs)
- Consider adding your name to the 12-step list. (TLO Debs)
- Ask everybody to speak a little about their own service work and the way in which this has contributed to their sobriety when sharing in meetings.
- Consider joining the Inspiring Service sub-committee. (Contact TLO Debs)
- Consider joining the 2026 NWIG Convention sub-committee. **DO YOU WANT A NWIG ONE DAY CONVENTION IS 2026? IF SO, COME FORWARD AND HELP ORGANISE IT OR THERE WON'T BE AN EVENT.**
- Announce all the vacant service positions at NWIG – particularly PUBLIC INFORMATION LIAISON OFFICER.

Actions to be added to the list of ongoing actions from this meeting: -

- Secretary: Send the letter to the Chair of GSB and all Trustees inviting Chair, Vice-chair, Hon Treasurer, and NWR Trustee to come to NWIG asap and discuss the continued lack of transparency and the unanswered important questions.
- Secretary: Decline Toms offer to give a presentation on the Chit system to NWIG, but thank him very much for the offer.
- Secretary: pass on Gemma's contact details to Jed – for explanation of Chit system.
- Treasurer: To make a contribution of £1,000.00 to NWR.
- NWIG Officers: Submit your report to the Secretary by the Sunday before the next IG meeting at the latest. Reports received after the Sunday before the next IG meeting will not be circulated.
- Debs: To ask the Inspiring Service Committee if it already has plans for organising a one-day Service Workshop, and if so, when.
- Catherine C: To meet with the Inspiring Service Committee to see what they already have planned for a Service Workshop.
- Secretary: Pass contact details for Paul N and Jim F to Catherine – volunteers for organizing the Service Workshop.

- Catherine to continue to follow up on the request for the instruction “Don’t meet the still suffering alcoholic in their own homes” to be removed from all guidance, on behalf of NWIG.
 - Treasurer: Increase the HLO budget to £500.
 - Chairman: Find out cost of running our radio advert on Bay Trust Radio and report back.
 - ECLO: To redirect the emails from the PILO email account to the Secretary’s email account.
 - Treasurer: To make a contribution of £1000.00 to NWR.
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-