

**MINUTES OF NORTH WEST INTERGROUP MEETING HELD AT
CATTERALL VILLAGE HALL, GARSTANG ROAD, CATTERALL, PR3 1XN
ON SUNDAY 9th August 2026 at 12:30 am**

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

OFFICERS PRESENT in the room:

Attending			Voting
1	Chair	Phil H	1
2	Secretary	Chris D	2
3	Treasurer	Jed C	3
4	ECLO	Neil D	4
5	HLO	Louisa B	5
6	PILO	Adam D	6
7	TLO	Debs	7
8	Region Rep	Jim F	8
9	Refreshments	Suzie C	9

GSRS PRESENT in the room:

Attending			Voting
PILO	Adam D	Tarleton Friday	PILO
10	Cal C	Carnforth Tuesday	10
Secretary	Chris D	Settle	Secretary
11	Ian	Tuesday Step Ormskirk	11
12	James F	Lindale Sunday	12
13	Jess F	Arch to Freedom, Lancaster, Tuesday	13
14	Jo W	Kendal Monday	14
15	Lindsay A	Bartle Beginners	15
16	Margaret H	Lancaster St Chads	16
17	Michael A	Chorley Monday	17
ECLO	Neil D	Morecambe Wednesday St Marys Reflection	ECLO
18	Nick S	Lancaster Monday	18
19	Nigel C	Fleetwood	19
20	Paul C	Morecambe, St Marys Sunday	20
Chair	Phil H	Garstang Friday	Chair
21	Steve W	Bamber Bridge Fri	21
22	Terry W	St Chads Chorley	22
23	Tom W	Leyland Sunday	23

VISITORS PRESENT in the room: -

Attending			Voting
24	Bobby	Ormskirk	-
25	Derek H	Leyland	-
26	Helen A	Saturday Women's Lancaster	-
27	Tracy C	Carnforth Tuesday	-

ATTENDING REMOTELY: -

Attending		GSR/OFFICER = VOTING RIGHTS	Visitor From	Voting
28	Carrol	-	Bartle Beginners	-
29	Chris L	Warick Bridge - Carlisle	-	24
30	Dawn	-	Lancaster	
31	Gemma	Barrow	-	25
32	Kevin	-	North Thames	-
33	Lea N	-	Cambridge	-
34	Lindsey A	?	-	26

1) **INTRODUCTION: -**

Welcome	By Phil.
Thanks to the provider of technical support	ECLO Neil.
Thanks to the refreshment helper	Suzie.
Preamble	Read by Tracy.
Traditions	Read by Nigel.
Declaration of Unity	Read by Derek.
Aims of Intergroup	Read by Ian.
Responsibility Statement	Read by Bobby.
Number of members attending	34
Number of members with voting rights	26
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. **Voting rights: Hands up = 26. (23 in the room + 3 online)**

3) To receive apologies. Apologies have been received from: -

1. Jenny, Lancaster.
2. Paul, Carlisle.
3. Kate A, Lancaster Women's.
4. Catherine C, Region Rep.
5. Apologies from Nick – who is running late but will be here asap.

THE POT WAS PASSED.

4) To agree the minutes of the NWIG meeting of 10th May 2026. (Paper 2026/35)

Proposed by: Jim F.

Seconded by: Tracy C.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of 10th May 2026 are accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5) **Chairs Report: -**

A) To receive the chairs report. (Paper 2026/36)

NWIG Chair Report Aug 26

Not a lot to report there is still some great AA activity going on within our Intergroup thank you for all members for getting involved.

The ongoing issues around finance and transparency and the alleged serious incident report made by the General Secretary of the Board accusing NWIG of Bullying and Harassment are still nowhere near being resolved.

I have drafted a letter to send to the General Secretary for your approval to send or not to send, to try to finally get answers.

The issue around transparency on finances is growing this intergroup is not alone with these concerns.

At our last assembly one member stated he believed

“That the lengths the GSB are going to, to avoid answering financial questions is a clear indication of fraud, and that his preferred way forward would be for NWIG to make a report to the police”

NWIG have never accused the Board of anything like fraud, we have simply just asked where has the money gone. Because of this lack of transparency and refusal to answer these long overdue questions these feelings are rising within the fellowship; so consider this when voting on sending the letter to the general Secretary and voting on withholding money.

Members may not be aware that the General secretary of the GSB job was advertised in the spring edition of the AA service news 2026, which must have been discussed in length at the Board and careful consideration taken to advertise this position as the General Secretary was leaving the Board. However, this is not now the case as at the last Region assembly the Trustee was asked when is the secretary leaving and she said “the staff like him so much they have asked him to stay on another year”. There has been no official Board statement regarding this in any AA service news, nor is it in the Region Minutes, but it was said. So, when we will be dealing with the General Secretary it will be the one that made the allegations to the charity commission.

So, the issues are transparency around finances and getting answers; and also NWIG being accused of Bullying and harassment of Trustees, and that accusation being sent to every region and intergroup vilifying NWIG. Which I don’t believe NWIG deserve to be accused of in any way whatsoever, so consider this when making any decisions; the accusations are against NWIG so the choice is intergroups.

Regarding the four safeguarding issues that Cath brought up; it was decided to take them to Region to ask them to consider taking these issues back to their intergroups, to consider voting on as a way forward to resolve these issues.

I would like to remind the members at intergroup that NWIG in the past have voted to take issues to Region, and Region deemed the issues so serious as to put an action plan into resolve it, but on many occasions it never happened. That is why NWIG voted on in the past “No faith or confidence in Region” and we went on alone - like with issues about the finances and transparency - to get answers. Thankfully other Regions and intergroups took notice. So we may be alone with the safeguarding issues.

All these are in Previous minutes should members wish to see them.

Concludes my Report. YIF Phil.

Questions arising:

Q1. Isn’t it just hearsay that the General Secretary is not leaving?

A1. No. It is a fact. This fact was reported by a Trustee to the NWR meeting on 7th June 2026.

Q2. Have we actually seen the email that the General Secretary sent to all Region and IG Chairs and Secretaries, except NWIG?

A2. Yes. It was circulated to all group GSR or reps before Conference this year, so in early April. As was the response that the NWIG Secretary then circulated stating the actual facts.

Q3. Can Steve be sent copies please?

A3. Yes, the Secretary will do that.

B) To review the draft letter to the General Secretary from NWIG and agree a way forward. (Paper 2026/37)

There was a lengthy discussion about this. The main points were: -

- Thank you to the Secretary for responding quickly to the email sent by the General Secretary that vilified NWIG. This was critical to protect the Conference Delegates.
- Incredibly the Hon Treasurer is still telling members who complain that the quarterly financial statements do not add up, that she has not been made aware of this.
- Other IG’s and Regions have the same concerns as us.
- This was confirmed by a visitor from North Thames. He expressed grave concerns about financial and reporting problems. **He is a retired accountant and auditor** and was a Conference delegate. In response to a question at Conference in April 2026 asking when will the quarterly reports be corrected, the Hon Treasurer replied that she does not have the time to do it.
- This member is particularly concerned about the following: -
 - That costs are not correctly identified.

- That the cost of Conference is not being reported accurately.
 - There appears to be definite misreporting.
 - These discrepancies are not acceptable and should not be ignored.
- This member reported that he is in correspondence with the Chair of the Board about these matters and he urged everyone to complain.
- The Warwick Bridge group in Carlisle discussed the email and the financial questions and consider these to be very serious issues that should definitely be followed up. However, the group felt that the November meeting was heated and that the letter should be modified. They suggested, tone down some of the language, let the facts speak for themselves, and just send a list of the questions.
- The Lancaster Living Sober Group (Monday) are strongly against withholding money from Region. (This will be voted on in due course). The view of the group is that the issues are causing problems and that it has become personal. It was reported that the group has not discussed the draft letter because it was only received on 2nd August with the reports for this IG meeting. However, it was originally circulated to all group contacts on 29th May 2026 with a request for it to be taken to groups and discussed, so that it could be voted on at this meeting.
- The issues and the ongoing problems about not getting any adequate answers from GSB or the Hon Treasurer do not seem to be being discussed at some local IG's. For example, it was reported that East Lancs IG were supposed to be discussing the situation recently but that the minutes of that meeting do not include anything at all about it. We can only urge GSR's to make their groups aware of the concerns.
- A member suggested a number of alternative ways forward and strongly recommend that one of these be adopted and that the letter should not be sent, because it is covering ground that has already been gone over numerous times.
 - Report the problem to New York and let them deal with it.
 - **Report the financial problems to the police.**
 - Seek legal advice.
 - Give the NWIG executive authority to follow up as they see fit, and stop taking up a lot of time at each IG meeting with it.
- It was suggested that: -
 - AAGB is entirely independent of AA in America. This problem is nothing to do with New York.
 - We have seen no evidence of fraud, so nothing to take to the police.
 - As other IG's and Regions seem to be becoming more aware of the financial problems, hopefully GSB will just finally send the eight quarterly financial statements properly corrected, allowing us to establish what the excessive spending went on, and avoid the need to waste money on legal advice.

It was proposed to send the letter.

VOTE:

For: 16.

Against: 6.

Abstained: 3.

RESOLVED: That the secretary will send the letter from the Chair of NWIG to the General Secretary.

6) Secretary's Report: - To receive the secretary's report. (Paper 2026/38)

RECEIVED: NO MATTERS ARISING.

7) Treasurer's Report. (paper 2026/39)

- The Treasurer's report was circulated on 3rd August 2026. **Full copy at the end of the minutes.**
- The bank balance is £23,638.
- Fewer groups are contributing. Only 9 out of 76 groups sent contributions in the last quarter.
- Those groups that are contributing are sending less.
- The Treasurer encourages groups to spend surplus funds on carrying the message, or send it up the service structure to IG. Not to keep hold of surplus funds.

- Some groups will be sending donations direct to GSO. However it should be noted that this bypasses the conscience of IG and Region.

Questions arising: -

Q4: Are the quarterly financial statements being held back and circulation delayed?

A4: Yes. The statement for the quarter to Dec 2025 had not even been circulated before Conference in April 2026. There is no good reason for this delay.

8) Complaints by NWIG and associated matters: -

a) Update regarding the complaint to the Charity Commission.

The response from the Charity Commission to the complaint that NWIG submitted in January 2026 was that it was satisfied that “the concerns raised are being managed”, and they would not therefore be taking any further action.

However, the CC guidance on “Disagreements and disputes in charities” indicates that there are potentially two further avenues to take this matter forward: -

- Guidance under the heading “When the Commission won’t get involved”:
The Commission will not get involved if your dispute is about trustees decisions or policies. Trustees are free to make decisions for their charity, so long as they are acting within the law and within the rules of the charity’s governing document.
 - This guidance raises the question - Were the trustees acting within the rules of the charity’s governing document when they broke Warranty Two and failed to maintain the Prudent Reserve?
 - The Governing Document is the “Memorandum and Articles of Association”.
 - Para 87 of that document requires the Trustees to uphold the traditions.
 - Need to check if there is a similar clause requiring the Trustees to uphold the Concepts, which contain Warranty Two. If there is, this matter could potentially be referred back to the Charity Commission.
- Advice in the “Disagreements and disputes in charities” document re mediation:
It is your responsibility as trustee to try and resolve a disagreement or dispute.
Mediation is a more formal way to settle disputes.
Mediation can be quick and cost-effective.
 - This guidance raises the question – Would the Trustees be prepared to go to mediation regarding the unanswered questions on finances?
 - It’s difficult to believe that the Trustees would agree to go to mediation in view of the fact that they are struggling to admit that there is a problem; a plan was agreed with the Board at the NWIG meeting in November 2025 to resolve the dispute but the Trustees have failed to complete the agreed actions; the Hon Treasurer has already declined the request to go to mediation with Kevin from North Thames.
 - Nevertheless, if the latest letter from the Chair of NWIG to the General Secretary does not produce the outstanding financial information, this option can be revisited.

The conclusion was that it is necessary to await the response to the letter that is about to be sent before any further action can be considered.

- b) Update regarding the “serious incident report” made by GSB to the Charity Commission about NWIG. It was reported that NWR agreed to find out what “category” of complaint had been made. It remains to be seen if NWR followed this up properly.
- c) Update regarding the treatment of NWIG by GSO/GSB.
None of the items that the Chair of the Board agreed to send in order to resolve this terrible situation have been received.
It was stressed that a plan was agreed with the Board at the NWIG meeting in November 2025 to resolve this dispute. The Board agreed to provide eight quarterly financial reports that are correct and add up, and also the accounts for the years when the Prudent Reserve was in deficit before this current occurrence – but has not done so. Despite being sent a polite reminder.
- d) Any other matters arising.

- 1) Our visitor from North Thames (retired accountant and auditor) made the following observations: -
 - There should never be a blanket refusal to reply from the board. There is a Right of Reply. (see concept 5)
 - In his opinion independent mediation might be very helpful.
 - However, he suggested independent mediation to the Hon Treasurer and she declined. (Both he and the Hon Treasurer are members of the same professional body and he suggested they make a joint application for their view on the concerns).
 - It might be helpful to suggest mediation again.
 - He is aware of the “red flag” issues and is following this up. Has not been able to obtain any reasonable answers yet.
 - Auditors do not report items as “red flags” lightly. This is very serious and should not be minimised.
- 2) A member asked if it possible to move for a vote of no confidence in the board. The Secretary suggested that this would not be a good thing and urged caution in this respect. We need to ensure the continued existence of the fellowship at all times. Therefore things to think about first: -
 - Would a vote of no confidence in the Board cause the AAGB to fold? We don’t want that.
 - There should be 16 alcoholic trustees, although there are sometimes some vacancies. Can the fellowship actually produce 16 new trustees to replace those it would remove with a vote of no confidence?
 - It’s usually exceptionally difficult for a whole Region to produce two candidates who fulfil the requirements to be a Trustee and are willing to stand. It is unlikely that we could rustle up 16.
- 3) A member suggested that in view of the fact that GSB is refusing to engage with NWIG, but that some other individual members, groups, IG’s and Regions are interested in the action that NWIG has taken in relation to the lack of transparency and the financial concerns, that it might be worth arranging a meeting with them and taking a collaborative approach to pursuing the concerns. The Secretary reported that: -
 - When NWIG discussed circulating an email to all IG’s letting them know that NWIG is withholding money and explaining why, it was decided that NWIG should not urge any other group, IG or Region to do the same. That it should simply state what it is doing and why, without influencing the response to the situation by others. It was thought that those interested enough would reach out to NWIG, which has happened. We have received various messages of support and visitors are attending our IG meetings.
 - It is normal practice in the fellowship to conduct our business through the service structure. Although this is clearly not currently working at all in relation to the financial concerns, it is in our long-term best interest to promote resolution through the service structure.
- 4) Do we know how many groups, IG’s and/or Regions are withholding money?
 No we don’t know.
 But the fact that others are withholding money was reported by the Chair of the Board at the Annual Regional Chairs meeting at York on 4/5 July 2025. This is an extract from the minutes of that meeting. “Jo F said that some IGs and Regions are still holding funds and reluctant to pass down the structure”.

9) **Concerns regarding the use of the term “Safeguarding” in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.**

- a) To receive an update of the position.
 No progress has been made to date; the situation is the same as at the last meeting, i.e. there are grave concerns about the inappropriate use of the term “safeguarding” in fellowship literature.
- b) Should NWIG take legal advice on the implications of using the word “safeguarding” in fellowship literature?
 NWR are being asked to consider taking legal advice at the next Region meeting. Therefore, await the outcome of that meeting.
 Note to Secretary: Include as an agenda item for next NWIG meeting to discuss the decision that Region take, and whether NWIG needs to pursue or not.
- c) To agree any further actions to be taken at this time.

Region will be considering the proposals made by Catherine C in her 2026 Conference Delegates report at the next Region meeting. NWIG need to decide if it supports each proposal, or not.

It is proposed that Region writes to the Board expressing the concerns regarding the use of the term “safeguarding” in fellowship literature.

VOTE:

For: 22.

Against: 2.

Abstained: 0.

RESOLVED: That NWIG supports the proposal that NW Region writes to the Board expressing the concerns regarding the use of the term “safeguarding” in fellowship literature.

It was proposed that Region seek legal advice and ask for an explanation of the legal responsibility attached to the use of the word “safeguarding”, and the position if a less problematic term is used.

VOTE:

For: 18.

Against: 2.

Abstained: 3.

RESOLVED: That NWIG supports the proposal that NW Region seeks legal advice and asks for an explanation of the legal responsibility attached to the use of the word “safeguarding”, and the position if a less problematic term is used.

It was proposed that NW Region writes to all other Regions, advising them of the concerns regarding the use of the term “safeguarding” in fellowship literature, and the actions now being taken by NWR in this regard.

VOTE:

For: 18.

Against: 2.

Abstained: 2.

RESOLVED: That NWIG supports the proposal that NW Region writes to all other Regions, advising them of the concerns regarding the use of the term “safeguarding” in fellowship literature, and the actions now being taken by NWR in this regard.

Questions arising:

Q5: Did Committee 4 at Conference 2026 agree unanimously that there are no issues with the use of the term “safeguarding”?

A5: No. A simple majority did *not* support the avoidance of the term “safeguarding” within our literature. But there were two votes against this view, who still think it is problematic and should be avoided. (14 for). There was also a majority view from the floor strongly objecting to this decision and calling it uninformed, misinformed and hasty. Therefore, it is clearly still a very contentious issue.

In addition to which Committee six at Conference 2026 removed references to “safeguarding” from Chapter 8 of the Service Handbook – Probation/Criminal Justice Social Work Services (CJSWS). This amendment was agreed unanimously by the Committee and passed by a two-third majority at Conference.

Widespread concerns remain about the legal implications of the use of this term.

10) Region Reports: -

- a) To receive the minutes of the Region meeting of 7th June 2026. (Paper 2026/40)

Minutes received.

NWIG Secretary will write to NWR Secretary about a few items that have been omitted from the minutes.

- b) To receive reports from the NWIG Reps to Region and to deal with any matters arising (if any).

Suzie urged members to attend Region as a visitor; visitors always welcome and the NWIG table usually well attended, but the more interest and support we can show the better.

11) Liaison Officer Reports and matters arising: -

- a) Archivist (Charlie). **No report received.**

b) Electronic Communication LO (Neil). (Paper 2026/41)

- **Report received. As read.**

c) Health LO (Louisa).

- No written report received.
- **Verbal report as follows:** -
 - HLO now set-up with official email address.
 - In contact with Lancaster hospital, where the rota is going smoothly with a steady flow of calls.
 - Recently received a lovely thank you message from a patient she met 15 months ago, who is still sober today. This is an example of positive feedback that comes with involvement with this service.
 - Trying to find more members who could answer requests for a visit to a patient during the day.
 - Looking for somebody to take ownership of the Lancaster group so that the HLO can concentrate on the areas without this valuable service yet.
 - Looking into providing this service in Preston.
 - Liverpool has also expressed an interest in the model operating at Lancaster hospital.
 - Next plan is to run a poster campaign. Likely to be timed for Christmas and June alcohol awareness week.
 - Will be visiting Gemma in Barrow.
- **Matters arising:**
 - Is there a budget for HLO for stamps and posters etc? Yes. Check amount with Jed, but thought to be £300 pa.
 - Best thing to give out has been the white coins, with contact details on. See if we can obtain more, ask at Region because they are thought to have been sourced by George.
 - November is AA awareness month. Might be good to tie poster campaign in with that. Posters have to be laminated.
- Suzie expressed big thanks to Louisa for taking this role on.

d) Prison LO (Vacant, but Phil covering). (Paper 2026/43)

Lancaster Farms Prison

The meeting is going well, held every two weeks. I have now stood down from my service position at the Farms to concentrate on starting a new meeting at Preston Prison. Anna (Arch to freedom meeting) will be covering my role at the prison, which entails doing reports and sorting the Rota out for next year. Anna has previously worked at the prison and is ideal to carry on the role. Jasmine is having clearance and will be joining the AA Rota. There are three members with clearance, Anna, Nigel C and Jamine. With me having clearance I have offered to cover any slots due to cleared members on holiday etc.

Preston Prison

There is a new meeting hopefully starting on Thursday 6th Aug, on a Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm. Myself and Carrol B (Preston Bartle Beginners meeting) will be facilitating the meeting. We have all the literature, Big Books and 12x12, to run the meeting, and will be looking for members to go in to share.

Wymott Prison

I contacted the Prison to discuss re-establishing the meeting, as previously a member from another area had been going into different wings to facilitate a meeting. There were concerns raised at Intergroup regarding this procedure, and the member stood down through ill health. I have suggested to the Prison to mainly concentrate on the wing where prisoners have asked for help regarding recovery. The Prison are keen for this service from AA. We just need AA members to get involved.

Garth Prison

No AA activity.

Haverigg Prison

I believe there is some AA activity within the Prison but as yet no reports have been submitted.

There is still a vacancy for a Prison Liaison officer at Intergruop I am willing to caretake the role for now.

Anna from Lancaster Farms says she will send a report and I will add it to my Preston Prison Report in the future.

Ideally, as mentioned in previous reports, to form an Intergruop sub-committee with a member going into each of the prisons to facilitate the members attending (like has been set up at Lancaster).

The intergruop PLO will then gather all reports from each Prison and present it to Intergruop. Reason for this is NWIG is a huge area to cover now Cumbria has joined us.

Please take this information back to your groups to encourage members to get involved with this very rewarding service position.

Concludes Report. Phil H.

Matters arising:

- Still no news on what is happening at Haverigg prison.
 - A new meeting was due to start at Preston last week, but could not take place because Phil's clearance was knocked back. (After 18 years of going in).
 - The clearance procedures have changed and members can't go in to prison without clearance three times a year on their NI number any more. Its been stopped. The Prions sub-committee need to look into this.
 - The new clearance procedure is run by LEAP, which stands for Lived Experience Advisory Panel. They will do the vetting process and clearance can take up to 12 weeks.
 - The handbook has not been updated re prisons since 2008 and is very out of date. A lot of what is says no longer applies.
 - The vetting form is now 33 pages long. Phil will be submitting one and does expect to get clearance again eventually.
-

e) Public Information LO (Adam).

i) PILO Report. (Paper 2026/44)

Refer to the actual report for images of The Lancashire Service Finder.

This is my third report to NWIG as PILO.

The Lancashire Service Finder

AA now has an entry in the Lancashire Service Finder at servicefinder.lancashire.gov.uk.

Even though this is a Lancashire-specific service, the page has been made to be very general. It refers users to the nationwide website, telephone number and email. The description is just the start of the AA preamble, as it is rather descriptive, simple and appropriate. The service has a "Date and Time" box, which just refers the user to the meeting finder on our website.

Note that any detail can be changed, and I'd be happy to - feel free to drop me an email or speak to me at IG.

We are first in the list when using the search terms "aa", "alcohol", "alcoholism" and "alcoholic".

However, we don't show up at all with a search for "drinking". Although I aimed to keep the description simple and conventional for AA, we could refine the description to include this and any other keywords which will make us easier to search for.

Big Book library donations

During the previous NWIG meeting, a motion was proposed and carried for a PI initiative to provide the big book to libraries in the Lancashire area and gather data about its usage if possible.

I established contact with the Lancashire County Council stock team and have made enquiries. It's taken a while to get a response, but the answers I have received so far are:

We have stocked previous editions of the AA book, but we currently don't have any of the latest edition.

We'd be more than happy to accept 12 copies, if this is possible? We'll make sure that they're sent to each of our Band A libraries (our largest branches), so they have the best reach and accessibility. If you're happy to donate 12 copies, please could you send them to: [address] And we will be able to get them on our catalogue and out to library branches. Thank you again for your kind offer of a donation!

My thoughts about this response:

1. I thought it was interesting that they mentioned older editions. I've asked to see if they have any info about older BBs in their stock.
2. I hadn't provided an initial number of books for donation, so I think they went for an unassuming opening gambit. The hardback BB is currently £11, so twelve of them is £132. As we have earmarked £4k for this initiative, I am enquiring about more libraries and asking if they can provide a list sorted by size/visitors which could help us prioritise if necessary.
3. I had asked if they have any contacts in neighbouring counties, so I'll chase this up as well.

Other

Myself and a previous YPLO (as YPLO is currently vacant) are in the early stages of organising a talk at Southport College.

Any further developments to the above initiatives that occur after the time of writing (26th July) will be provided at the NWIG meeting.

- ii) Update re provision of Big Books to local libraries.
 - The libraries used to stock old editions of the Big Book but they were withdrawn some time ago.
 - The libraries do not want more than 12 Big Books.
 - They intend to take 12 and gauge the usage.
 - The library service is going to put Adam in touch with their colleagues in other areas.
 - He will enclose posters with the books.

Matters arising: -

- In view of the fact that the libraries only want 12 Big Books donating, the Reserve of £4,000.00 that was previously agreed can be released.
- A member reported that if you ask for a copy of the Big Book in your local library and they don't have it, they will obtain it from their central library.
- Also, the books need to be taken out of the Library and used from time to time, or they will be removed from the shelves.
- In Barrow library there are 2 Big Books. A copy has been taken out 15 times since 2018.
- There is a website on which you can track which libraries have a copy of the Big Book available.

f) Telephone LO. (Debs)

i) TLO Report. (paper 2026/45)

- Report received. As read. Refer to the report for full details. Below is just a summary of the main points covered.
- Eight responder vacancies – take it back to groups please.

1	Wednesday	8 – 11 am	Fulltime
2	Wednesday	12 – 4 pm	Even months
3	Wednesday	4 – 8 pm	Even months
4	Thursday	8 – 11 am	Fulltime
5	Saturday	8 – 11 am	Fulltime
6	Saturday	3 – 7 pm	Fulltime
7	Sunday	8 – 12 am	Fulltime
8	Sunday	11 am to 3 pm	Alternate weeks

- Nobody has asked to go on the 12-step list in the last quarter. (Or for the three years before that). Take this back to your groups please.

- Deb's is obliged to step down due to ill-health and she was thanked for her service as NWIG TLO since May 2024, and wished a speedy recovery.
- Deb's will sponsor in any new NWIG TLO and do a proper handover.

ii) Draft Terms of Reference for the combined Telephone Service (Liverpool, Manchester and NWL&CTS). (Paper 2026/46)

NOT RECEIVED.

TLO has had sight of the draft TOR and will send the agreed final draft to NWIG in due course.

iii) Matters arising: -

- Male 12 steppers in Cumbria are withdrawing from covering some areas, because the whole Cumbria area is too big to cover.
- The TLO/RTLO attended the Regional Telephone Liaison Officers meeting at York yesterday. Points were: -
 - i. The combined NW Telephone Service is the busiest in the UK and the second biggest outside London.
 - ii. Some of the items at York were about safeguarding.
 - iii. The TLO/RTLO does not know who is the Chair of the National Telephone Sub-committee. She does not receive a response from those she contacts.
 - iv. She did not find the Regional Telephone Liaison Officers meeting useful. Because;
 1. Questions posted in Zoom were just shut down and not answered;
 2. Haven't received the Quarter two statistics;
 3. All a bit of a shambles.
- Nevertheless, the NWR telephone service is going smoothly. But we do still need more responders. Take it back to groups please.
- We also still need more 12 Steppers. Especially in Whitehaven and Cumbria.
- Debs will continue to be involved with the combined telephone service despite having to step down as TLO.
- Three administrators are covering the admin now that Debs is stepping down, and she will continue to provide training.
- **NWIG thank Debs very much for all her dedicated service with the NWL&CTS. Thank you, Debs.**

iv) **Questions arising: -**

Q6: Who takes a person off the 12-step list if there are concerns and instigates an "action plan", as per the National 12 Steppers Safeguarding Guideline"?

A6: If it was necessary that would be done by the TLO/RTLO. But Debs has never had to do it. If members are unwell, they usually step down. In her experience responders can overstep their remit. However, she doesn't always follow the guidelines. She was hoping to discuss this point at the TRLO meeting, but it didn't happen. Debs reported that she doesn't do an "action plan" and that she thinks that terminology is more suitable for in a workplace, and that the guidance needs re-wording.

g) Young Persons LO (Vacant, Carla kindly covering emails). (Paper 2026/47)

- No report because Ed has moved and has had to stand down. Please take this vacancy back to your groups.
- **NWIG thank Carla, the previous YPLO, for stepping in and kindly monitoring the YPLO email address while the post is vacant. Thank you, Carla.**

12) **GSR Reports: -**

Received. As read. No matters arising and no questions.

Note the new meetings in Croston and Longridge.

13) To consider proposals from groups for expenditure on projects to reach the still suffering alcoholics.

Books for libraries; dealt with at item 11e.

Secretary - tell Duncan that if the Carlisle Monday group put together a plan for their proposed “unity afternoon” and a budget and present it to IG, it will be considered.

14) NWIG Convention: -

a) Is this now shelved for 2026?

YES.

b) Is anybody coming forward to form a committee to run a NWIG convention in 2027?

NOT TODAY. Take it back to your groups please.

15) To discuss the impact on NWIG of the closure of neighbouring IG's, and how to deal with it.

There is quite a lot of confusion about M&SWLI. Sometimes it is reported to have closed down. And sometimes it is reported that it is trying hard to stay open. It is still listed on the AAGB website as existing. IF it were to close, there are 22 groups that would need to register with a different IG, and it looks as though 7 of those might head to NWIG. Although NWIG is already very big with 77 groups, 7 more should not be impossible to accommodate, so let's just wait and see what happens.

The only other consideration is that acquiring some new groups from M&SWLI IF it closes, could lead to NWIG being responsible for another prison, Risley. This makes it even more important to try and establish the Prison Committee structure to facilitate meetings in all the prisons in our IG, without overloading one LO with an impossible remit.

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

a)	Armed Service Liaison Officer.	None.
b)	Employment Liaison Officer.	None.
c)	Prison Liaison Officer.	None.
d)	Probation Liaison Officer.	Steve.
e)	Share Liaison Officer.	Nigel.
f)	Telephone Liaison Officer.	None.
g)	Telephone Committee Members.	None.
h)	Young Persons Liaison Officer.	None.

Please take details of all vacant roles back to groups.

17) Election of Officers: -

- **Steve was elected as Probation Liaison Officer.**
- **Nigel was elected as Share Liaison Officer.**

18) Plain Language Big Book, update from GSB (if any).

No update received.

19) Any Other Business: -

Lea N from Cambridge who zoomed in as a visitor thanked the assembly for allowing him to attend, and report that it had been “stimulating and impressive”. (You can come again Lea).

20) Finance: -

a) To consider making a contribution of £1,000 to NWR to cover the insurance and conference delegate costs.

The proposal was to make a contribution of £1,000 to NWR.

VOTE:

For: 23.

Against: 0.

Abstention: 0.

RESOLVED: Treasurer to make a contribution of £1,000 to NWR.

b) To consider sending the excess of surplus funds over £1,000 to Region, or to continue to withhold.

The proposal was to continue to *withhold* the excess of surplus funds over £1,000.

VOTE:

For: 14.

Against: 7.

Abstention: 1

RESOLVED: To withhold the surplus funds over £1,000 at this time.

Questions arising:

Q7: Are the NWIG accounts audited?

A7: No we don't think so. But it was agreed that they should be. Please can everybody try and locate a suitable member who would be able to independently audit the NWIG accounts.

Q8: Is the NWIG bank account set-up so that one member of the exec puts the payments on and two others then approve that payment?

A8: We think so. Secretary to check with Treasurer.

21)

Dates and times of next meetings:

NWIG: -

a) 08/11/2026.

b) 14/02/2027.

c) 09/05/2027.

d) 08/08/2027.

e) 14/11/2027.

NW Region: Location – Mossy Lea Village Hall, 327-313 Mossy Lea Road, Wroughtington, Wigan, WN6 9SA.

a) 06/09/2026.

b) 06/12/2026.

Notes for GSRs to take back to groups:

• **ALL THE USUAL POINTS: -**

- Submit your group report at least TWO WEEKS BEFORE the next IG meeting.
- Broadcast 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.
- Bring specific proposals to NWIG on how to use the surplus funds to reach the still suffering, along with details of exactly how you and your group will actively participate in doing so. Include costings for the proposal.
- 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 Louisa the HLO at health.nwest@aamail.org
- Consider visiting a prison meeting to share. (Contact Chairman Phil)
- Consider becoming a telephone responder. (Contact TLO/Secretary)
- Consider adding your name to the 12-step list. (TLO/Secretary)
- 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.
- **Announce all the vacant service positions at NWIG at your groups. Current vacancies are: -**
Armed Service LO: Employment LO: Prison LO: Prison Sub-committee members:
Telephone Liaison Officer: Telephone Committee Member: Young Persons LO.

• **PARTICULAR TO THIS MEETING: -**

- If you want a NWIG convention in 2027 please come forward to be The Convention Convenor, and get a Committee together.
- Please can everybody try and locate a suitable member who would be able to audit the NWIG independently accounts.

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

- Treasurer: Send £1,000 contribution to NWR.
 - Secretary: Send copies of the email that the General Secretary sent to all Region and IG Chairs and Secretaries, except NWIG, and the response circulated by the NWIG Secretary that contained corrections to Steve.
 - Secretary: Send the letter from the Chair of NWIG to the General Secretary.
 - Secretary: Include as an agenda item for next NWIG meeting to discuss the decision that Region take regarding seeking legal advice about the use of the term “safeguarding”, and whether NWIG needs to pursue or not.
 - NWIG Secretary will write to NWR Secretary about a few items that have been omitted from the minutes.
 - Region Reps: Find out where we can order the white coins with fellowship contact details on.
 - Treasurer: Release the Reserve of £4,000 for Big Books for libraries. (They only want 12).
 - Secretary: Send a thank you email to Carla since she wasn't here today to hear it said.
 - Secretary: Check how the bank mandate is set up with the Treasurer.
 - Secretary: Sign Steve up as new Probation LO and Nigel as Share LO. (Register with GSO; provide official email).
 - Secretary: Tell Duncan that if the Carlisle Monday group put together a plan for their proposed “unity afternoon” and a budget and present it to IG, it will be considered.
-

Treasurer report for North West Intergroup August 2026 Intergroup

Jed C 3 Aug 2026

1. General

The bank balance has increased during the quarter

From 23,437

To 23,638

to be expected when we are not contributing to Region, apart from 4,000 for insurance.

2. Contributions down

Fewer groups contributed, and the total group contributions halved.

Please continue to send money to Intergroup rather than keeping it in your groups – the Intergroup bank account has dual control and it is contrary to traditions to keep over and above a prudent reserve in your groups

3. Gratitude week

Raised £242 so far

4. Cash balance

I have not counted the cash for a while due to being absent from last two Intergroups. Apologies, I will report in the meeting

5. More information

All statements and the detailed accounts are available from me on request, by emailing treasurer.nwest@aamail.org

6. Sections and Breakdowns below

- Income and Expense for the quarter
- Officer Budget breakdown for this quarter
- Group Contribution breakdown
-

7. Income and Expense for the Quarter

Income and Expenditure reconciled to statements		
Start Date	01-May-26	
End Date	31-Jul-26	
Period Statement opening balance	23,437.05	
Period Statement closing balance	23,638.16	
Statement Difference	<u>201.11</u>	
Income (from transactions)	1,540.32	
Expense (from transactions)	- 1,339.21	
Transactions Difference	<u>201.11</u>	
		Check Sum
		0.00
Income		
Group Contributions	1,181.00	See breakdown B
Personal Donations	91.50	
Gratitude Week	242.82	
Telephone Income	25.00	
	<u>1,540.32</u>	
Expense		
Officer Budgeted Expenditure	-	See breakdown A
Region Contribution	- 1,000.00	
Telephones	- 58.53	
Bank Charges	- 21.00	
Travel	- 91.80	
Zoom	- 167.88	
	<u>- 1,339.21</u>	
Cash held	150.00	approx

8. Budget: Officer Budgets, and Prudent reserve

Proposed budgets 25-26				Expenditure				Summary		
	Annual		Quarterly	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Spent	Left
Chair	100.00	Phil	25.00			none		Chair	-	100.00
Convention	-		-			none		Convention	-	-
ECLO (inc Zoom)	300.00	Neil	75.00			none		ECLO (inc Zoom)	-	300.00
Health	300.00	Nigel	75.00			none		Health	-	300.00
Inspiring Service	-		-			none		PI	-	-
Service Workshops	300.00	Catherine	75.00		445.50	none		Service Workshops	445.50	- 145.50
PI	300.00	Adam	75.00			none		PI	-	300.00
Prisons inc. Wymott	300.00	Phil etc	75.00			none		Prisons inc. Wymott	-	300.00
Probation	-		-			none		Probation	-	-
Secretary	100.00	Chris	25.00			none		Secretary	-	100.00
Telephones	300.00	Debs	75.00			none		Telephones	-	300.00
YPLO	300.00	Ed	75.00	46.80		none		YPLO	46.80	253.20
				2,300.00	575.00	46.80	445.50	-	-	
								492.30	1,807.70	

Other committed expenditure

Region Quarterly	4,000.00		1,000.00
Telephones	250.00		62.50
Bank Charges	100.00		25.00
Travel to IG	500.00		125.00
Venue etc for IG	300.00		75.00
	5,150.00		1,287.50

Total Quarterly expenditure 1,862.50

Prudent Reserve (each Qtr) 1,862.50

9. Group Contributions breakdown this quarter

NWIG contributions by Group

Group Name	Group ID	Total
Adlington (Chorley)	10126	100.00
Carlisle Open Topic	261	50.00
Chorley Came to Believe	6987	100.00
Chorley St Marys	9346	150.00
Chorley URC Friday	7492	21.00
Lancaster Discussion (St Chads, Saturday)	6098	200.00
Parbold Themed Meeting	8315	100.00
Preston Just for Today	6918	360.00
Southport Alive and Sober	6663	100.00
		1,181.00