

March 2018 OFFICER REPORTS for the 155th MSIG ASSEMBLY

Enclosed reports: Electronic Communication LO; Young Persons LO; Region Reps, Prison LO; Health LO, Employment LO, Schools LO; Share LO; Telephone LO; Probation LO; Public Information LO

Electronic Liaison Officer Report – Jan – Mar '18

I am very happy with the performance of our website; we are getting roughly 2000 visits a month. I have had another busy quarter developing the website I also had a training session with our new secretary Stef and Alice our Chair on updating the website news section and on sending out emails using our mailing application.

Stef will be taking on more of the emailing duties now to free up some more time for myself and subsequent ECLO. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to keep informed of all our mid surrey intergroup communication, you can sign up on the following link:

aamidsurrey.org.uk/intergroup/

Here is a summary of what I have been doing this quarter:

- New History of AA section of the website is now live I have adapted a presentation that was written by Bob S for the 'Magical History Tour' on the history of AA. You can find it on the following link aamidsurrey.org.uk/aa-history/
- I added a new page to the website with more information about conference questions: aamidsurrey.org.uk/conference-questions-2018/
- I launched this year's conference questions feedback form after the success of last year with lots of our GSR's using it aamidsurrey.org.uk/feedback-form/
- I am re-printing the tent card for the GSR's to take back to their groups for display in meetings to make everyone aware that we have a website and encourage people to use it.

Next Quarter I will be stepping down as ECLO in June so in my remaining time I will be finishing off some bits and pieces so that the website is in a good state to pass on and also doing some extensive training for our next ECLO. If you would like to feedback to me about anything I have covered in this report please email me eclo@aamidsurrey.org.uk

Yours in fellowship

Ellie

Young Persons Liaison – Jan – Mar '18

Thank you for taking the time to read my report. A large part of my role is to be there and available to talk with anybody, whether it be a young new comer struggling in AA or even someone not so new. I hope to be able to encourage young people to take up service and be there for each other. I have and am willing to talk to any parents, sponsors or anybody else who is seeking to support young persons in recovery, if they wish to contact me. Below I've listed a few things YPL has been involved in the last couple of months... If there are any 'leads' – charities or young persons' mental health services that you think may value a visit/call from YPL/AA, then please let me know.

- The Amber Project: Jon E has now taken on this project; he is exploring the possibilities of having a meeting on site.

- YP's Contacts: I'm continuing to put together a Young Persons contact list Please contact me if you'd be willing to be added to this list or want to know some more about it.
- Surrey University: I'm in contact with the Surrey University – not much happening at the moment, will update when further progress.
- YMCA: I am hoping to meet with the team at the YMCA again soon. I have been contacted once or twice by users of the YMCA.
- HOPE services: I have sent an initial email asking to offer a meeting to provide AA awareness.
- Young Persons Meeting Guildford: Just to clarify about this meeting there's no age restrictions, everybody is welcome, traditionally the meeting was set up for people who found sobriety before they were 30 years old, as a guideline. However, we'd be glad to see anybody that wishes to grace us with their presence. Please also be sure to point any young people in our direction so they can find more of whom they can relate to.
- YPLO's Workshop in York: I hope to attend on the 10th March. I am always happy for my number or email address to be given out to any newcomer and/or young person if they wish to speak. It's often fairly daunting entering the rooms as it is, let alone finding it's mostly people a lot older than I.

Whilst there are many more young people around these days, there are some meetings, very few younger people attend – it's easy for a newcomer to form their first impression from a meeting like that and become anxious or resentful of being young consequently heading back out and there ... (speaking from experience!)

Zara H – yplo@aamidsurrey.org.uk / 07584702583

REGION REPS REPORT from the South East Region Assembly - Burgess Hill 14th January 2018

Workshops: Very well attended in morning, reports to follow.

Vacancies at Region:

Now: 2 alternate Conference Delegate, TLO, YPLO, SNC Committee Member

Upcoming: Armed Services LO from March 2018

Conference Delegate and Share LO from September 2018

Regional Treasurer, Health LO, Prisons LO and PILO from November 2018

National Vacancies: Survey Sub-committee –3 vacancies

General Secretary, AA-GB (Paid Post) deadline if interested 6 April 2018 (Details in letter, December 2017, available on request)

Regional Representative Reports: Brighton and Hove: Jackie reported that this IG has too many vacancies but more meetings than ever before. Also highest number of young people dying in the UK

Officer Reports: ECL0: File store password to change every assembly. Could GSR's have AA mail addresses to protect their online privacy?

SNC: Claire attended the committee yesterday. Officers for forthcoming year: John A, Chair; Jo, Secretary; Tony, Treasurer; Sue, Convenor (SE Region). Dates are 31 August, 1,2 September 2018, theme 'Progress not Perfection'. Volunteers needed.

Trustee: Bill W. 'Anniversary of Winchester visit' celebrations will be held in August, hopefully hosted by Northdown IG

Treasurer: Insurance needs to be paid by all IGs as soon as possible. Mid Surrey contribution of £721.01 is paid.

Secretary: Region reports need to be with Carmel 2 weeks in advance of forthcoming assemblies

Chair: Alan will be attending next Mid Surrey Assembly

AOB: If an Alternate Conference Delegate is needed the longest serving stands in. Two with the same length recently, position taken by drawing lots - assembly agreed this.

Tordash (Tom S?) from Polish speaking IG welcomed as visitor.

Region Reps: Kevin 07770 940866, Marie 07527 599886, Michael 07957 125025, region@aamidsurrey.org.uk

MSIG PRISON LO REPORT – Jan – Mar '18

Coldingley Prison: The meetings are running fine at present and are well attended, with a good turnout on a weekly basis.

Send Prison: Meetings are running well. We have had a facilitator who has had to step down due to work commitments. We have found a suitable replacement and are in the process of obtaining security clearance. Hopefully this will be completed as quick as possible.

Lee Early
PLO

Health Liaison Officer Report – Jan – Mar '18

The last two months have proved busy in terms of Health Liaison for Mid Surrey. In January I attended the AA South East Region Workshop in Burgess Hill and an inspirational Health Liaison Workshop hosted by Chiltern and Thames Intergroup.

In addition, I undertook my first meeting with the Surrey Treatment and Provider Group. Representatives from local authority, service providers, prison service and criminal justice all attend this forum. It would appear that financial cuts are being made across various services.

On 12th February I joined Bob S, Peter G, Elizabeth M (Public Information Officer) and other members of AA to undertake a Surrey University Experimental Meeting. We were invited to address 28 third year clinical psychology students who will eventually be working in the NHS. A short presentation was completed followed by the group conducting a mini AA meeting with a secretary, chair and open forum. This was followed by a questions and answers session during which the students raised a number of topics.

Further progress is being made towards setting up an AA meeting at the Royal Surrey County Hospital with both Alice N (Chair) and myself visiting the Lead Clinical Alcohol Nurse Specialist.

There are a few projects that I would like to take forward over the next year or so. These include working with the GSRs across Mid Surrey to try and engage GPs and possibly link into practises located near the rooms. In addition, I have approached the Chief Inspector who is the Custody Lead in Surrey about undertaking AA presentations to the healthcare professionals who look after clients in the Custody Suites. This is an area that has hitherto not been explored.

There are several up and coming events some of which involve collaboration with other Mid Surrey Committee members and officers.

Yvette S

Health Liaison Officer Mid Surrey Intergroup

Employment Liaison Officer Report – Jan – Mar ‘18

The majority of employers now see alcoholism as an illness that needs treating and have progressive policies towards their staff. Bizarrely, they are now less interested in talking to AA than ever. The majority outsource employee welfare to specialist organisations and so an employee who approaches their HR manager with a drinking problem is encouraged to contact them. This has made it very difficult to make headway with local employers. The majority of the larger departments outsource employee welfare and are not interested in talking to me. The best I can hope for is that they keep the information on file and if they find themselves needing to access us, they have it available.

The service handbook does suggest that PI takes the form of a committee which includes employment, and with the appointment of Yvette as health liaison and Elizabeth as PI, there is already a sense of joint working.

I have also followed up contacts within the job centre who are encouraged to work with us by the DWP. They are responsible for assisting job seekers with alcohol problems to get back, and to to work. I have a meeting with the Partnerships Manager for Guildford and her boss on 23rd February and I hope this will lead to some opportunities to meet with their teams to introduce AA.

I have had contact with a sergeant from Deepcut Barracks who is running a health fair for army personnel in April and has requested an A.A. presence. As our armed forces liaison officer designate is not yet in post, I have picked this one up. Elizabeth is helping with the PI aspect, like the display and she and I will attend with up to two other members.

With my region liaison officer hat on, I ran a workshop on employment at the last regional assembly. I have also been asked to attend west Kent intergroup to explain how the ELO works.

I'm delighted that this is a more positive report than previous ones, and feel that inroads are finally being made.

Sue D

ELO

School's Liaison Officer Report - Jan – Mar ‘18

There hasn't been much progress since the meeting on getting more appointments for school talks. We did a talk at the Tiffin School in Kingston on 8th February and I spoke to the teacher in charge to

find out if it would be possible to do more talks there to other, different year groups. He has put me in touch with the relevant people and I will contact them. For the time being, I am going to try to do this with the schools I've already been to; both to ensure and try to ensure that they ask me to go back again and to see if they would be willing to have me come in to speak to different groups of students.

John

Share report – Jan – Mar '18

Nearly half our meetings are taking Share Magazine

Firstly, thank you to all of the meetings I have been visiting over the last six months. It's been great to get so many different meetings under my belt – but also to see how well we are doing on the Share front as well. Nearly half of the Surrey Intergroup meetings now subscribe to Share magazine – which is a great result.

Another thing that I have noted in my travels is that quite a number of our meetings are just too small to be able to afford to order Share magazines – it is enough of a struggle to meet the rent, basic literature and rent.

But remember, supporting Share **isn't** all about subscriptions. York is desperate for editorial, photographs and cartoons as well. **I would be grateful if the GSRs could read the following out at your meeting to try and encourage your group members to become more involved with the magazine.**

*“Share is **our** story, so please share **yours**. There are so many AA members who are not able to go to regular meetings: the housebound, single parents with children, those in the armed forces, on oil rigs, in hospital or prisons – and they rely on Share for their ‘meetings in between meetings’.*

*It doesn't matter if you are newcomer or an old timers, Share would like to hear your story - and writing for Share is a great piece of service to help **you** and your sobriety. You don't need to be as brilliant writers. The Editor will take care of spelling and grammar. All you need to remember is 1) don't write more than 1,000 words (much less is OK too!), 2) Share covers off the steps and traditions each month (Step 1 is January, Step 2 February – and so on – so one of the steps or traditions is a perfect subject for an article. 3) You need to get your articles to York (AAShare@qsogb.org.uk) **at least three months** in advance of the relevant issue to get your article considered for publication.*

Don't forget – it isn't just articles Share needs. The magazine is happy to have cartoons and photos as well. When you are taking a picture for Share, make sure it is free from any possible identification (people/identifiable buildings or businesses etc) so that Share can still use it and keep anonymity. Again, pictures/cartoons can be emails to AAShare@qsogb.org.uk but it needs to be high resolution (2MBs) or 6MB TIFFs/BMPs.”

Thank you.

Lindsay M

Telephone Liaison Officer Report – Jan – Mar '18

The Telephone Service has had a busy and productive start to the year. We have taken on three new responders and are training a further two to join the team; the majority of shifts (approximately 90 a month) are being covered successfully as we continue to offer a vital service for the still suffering alcoholic. My aim is to continue to recruit responders to give the team more depth and prevent it from becoming too reliant on a few responders covering the majority of shifts, this will help us share the service more fairly and reduce our exposure to risk if one of our regular responders drops out.

I'm delighted that Kelly G has started her new role as rota co-ordinator and has made a great start putting together her first rota for March 2018. I'll endeavor to give her as much help and support as I can with both the rota and the continuing work keeping our 12 Step list up to date.

In January I attended the AA South East Regional workshop and chaired a fantastic Telephones meeting with fellow TLO's from responders. The main topic of discussion was the ongoing abusive caller situation currently affecting certain Intergroups in our region. I'm happy to report that the caller known as 'Gary' has been tracked down to Wrexham and warned that if he continued the police would be informed, the abusive calls have since stopped!

Finally, I have put myself forward for the Vacant RTLO position for South East Region. I attended last year's RTLO's meeting in York as an alternate to represent the South East and really enjoyed the experience. I've discussed this with my fellow TLO's and have received a favorable response. I will, of course, do my very best if my application is successful.

Yours in fellowship
Peter

Probation and criminal justice report for Jan/Feb2018

A meeting was held with Louisa Crowsley, Head of Strategy at Probation responsible for Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Dates have been set for AA meetings at the Probation Offices in Park Street Guildford twice a month for the rest of the year. A new person is taking over from Louisa and Lee, the new secretary of the meeting and I will be meeting him in April.

The meeting needs more support to keep going. The meetings are being advertised on the website and hopefully GSRs are promoting it at their meetings. There are about 6 core group members and 1-3 users. This is one of the issues we need to pursue with Probation. Discussions are taking place regarding putting this meeting on the Where to Find card and also a debate regarding whether it should be open or closed.

I received a telephone call from Rachel the chair of Intergroup in Redhill who said that they are intending to mirror the meetings we have in Probation in Guildford in Redhill.

I am also working on a strategy to talk to the magistrates' courts and the police in Guildford.

In Fellowship,

Lesley

P.I REPORT COVERING SEPTEMBER 2017 – MARCH 2018

The main development over the past 6 months has been the implementation of the pink volunteer forms which were initiated by my predecessor Jonny. It has therefore not been too arduous or difficult to pick up the phone and request another member to take part in an activity which may or may not be of particular interest. So the P.I Team is a flexible balance between specialists and those of us who may simply have an hour or two to spare on the weekend. So, well done Jonny! An excellent legacy which encourages team work in this programme. We cannot do it alone! So I encourage all GSRs to continue collecting names and phone numbers of volunteers with an indication of availability (lunchtime, weekends, evenings only etc). So P.I continues being a cross cutting sector and should be seen and valued as a Resource tool to assist individual groups, as well as specialist areas such as the NHS, Schools, Young People, Academia, Employers as well as Probation, Prisons and the Armed Forces. I am therefore pleased to report that PI has been active with Mothers Union in February, with the Probation Services every two weeks in Guildford, with the NHS Engage programme every month. Additionally P.I participated with other PI Officers in a demonstration meeting at the University of Surrey in front of a rather scary selection of 3rd year Psychology students. I look forward to working closely with Young Persons as Zara has a number of wonderful ideas that require a few guinea pigs. A number of other projects are in the pipeline: at Deepcut Army Barracks as well as some activities within the charity sector, many of which have international headquarters in Woking such as Plan International and WWF.

Please send your ideas to pi@aamidsurrey.co.uk. They are all welcome. Thank you.

Elizabeth M