

**Liaison Report for Intergroup 5th June 2018: Armed Services, ECLLO, Health, Share,  
Telephones, Schools and Employment**

**ARMED SERVICES LIAISON OFFICER**

Since taking over as MSIG ASLO, I have attended two events in the IG area. Firstly I attended what is called a Unit Health Fair at the Royal Logistic Corps HQ in Deepcut on 11 Apr 18. All Army units are mandated to hold an annual Unit Health Fair where the members of that unit are encouraged to eat healthily, look after their physical and (increasingly) mental health etc with small stands provided by the military medical and dental centres, the Samaritans, and various forces welfare charities. MSIG involvement had been organised by the Employment LO prior to ASLO being filled. I attended with 3 other members of AA (employment, PI and 1 Ex military). These events are normally held in the Unit gymnasium so that maximum number of participants can attend. As Deepcut is a training unit there were quite a few visitors (recruits in training, young officers, and key leaders.) Most were not overly interested by AA but many of them noticed us and we spoke to some of them, including some key personnel who could signpost people in need. We had the usual AA PI handouts. At future similar events I would suggest that a tin of quality street (other chocolate selections are available!) would be a useful conversation starter.

I also attended a Brigade Health Committee at the Headquarters of the Army's 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade in Aldershot on 3 May 18. (My point of contact was the Brigade officer responsible for health and wellbeing, currently held by a civil servant in Aldershot.) 11 Bde HQ sit in the MSIG but their area of responsibility covers most of the South East (less London.). As well as regular and reservist units, they have a certain amount of responsibility for veteran's issues.

The Health Committee is designed to give direction and guidance on all areas of health and wellbeing, including best practice. It was an extremely useful group of military Commanders to sow the AA seed to. The General officer commanding the HQ was there along with his deputy. There were also commanders of army units in the 11 Brigade area. A military Regional Clinical Director was also present.

I was scheduled for a 10 minute pitch which turned into an active discussion for 20 minutes. Generally the mood was receptive and positive. The Army know alcohol is a probably a bigger problem than in some other social / employment groups and whilst the army's current policy is for soldiers to be encouraged to moderate their drinking (Units will soon be required by the chain of command to have a Unit Alcohol Advisor), the mood seemed to acknowledge that this wouldn't work for some(!). Units were encouraged to consider inviting AA to their Unit Health Fairs (the 11<sup>th</sup> April meeting I attended above), and to consider signposting individuals to AA if they thought alcohol was an exacerbating or resulting factor of their physical or mental health issues. It was a useful engagement with an influential group with potential reach across the region.

I will continue to coordinate AA representation at similar committees and health fairs across MSIG as required.

Yours in Fellowship

Eddy C.  
Armed Services Liaison Officer

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS LIAISON OFFICER**

It was brought to my attention that a GSR was concerned that we were not making it clear enough that our website is a local intergroup website and to signpost to the national website. I have given this a lot of thought and also had a meeting with Alice our chair on the matter. As a result of this meeting we looked through the website and made some changes to make it clearer for visitors and make sure that the focus of our website is for local communication and resources so as not to take away from the importance of our national website. I also included a map of our intergroup on the homepage to make it clearer for people that the meetings listed on our website were just for our area with a link to the national website.

There has recently been a change of guidelines for intergroup microsites on the national website. We can no longer link to an external website. I therefore had to obtain login information so that I could change the wording on our page and take off the direct link to our site:  
<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/midsurrey>

Finally we have had someone come forward to take over from me as ECLO, they will hopefully be voted in at the next assembly. I will be doing extensive training with the new ECLO and will continue to be there for support to ensure a seamless transition. It has been a pleasure to serve you as ECLO these last few years. It has been difficult at times but I am proud of what has been achieved during my tenure.

Yours in fellowship  
Ellie

## **HEALTH LIAISON OFFICER**

Alice (Chair) and I met with the Alcohol Liaison Service Royal Surrey County Hospital on 22nd March about setting up an AA meeting on site. After discussion it has been decided that for the time being, we will support the inpatient treatment service with Twelfth-Steppers from the AA Fellowship. This will be by invitation, (if the patient has expressed an interest) with one or two members of the Fellowship visiting the ward.

On Monday 26th March I joined forces with the Health Liaison Team from Chiltern and Thames Intergroup to undertake a presentation about AA to 50 Intensive Care doctors and nurses at Wexham Park Hospital. We received positive feedback and discussion has taken place about returning to talk with a wider audience of doctors. Wexham Park Hospital is within the same group as Frimley Hospital (Mid Surrey Intergroup).

I attended my second meeting of the Surrey Treatment and Provider Group on 25th April. There are changes taking place in relation to addiction treatment services provided by Surrey County Council (Public Health) and Surrey Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SABP). Windmill House inpatient unit which has been supported by members of AA from local meetings, is closing at the end of June. There has perhaps never been a better time to spread the message to GPs and work closer with the Alcohol Specialist Nurses in our local hospitals.

I am visiting St Peters, Chertsey and Frimley Hospitals before the end of this month. A new open meeting of AA is starting at Frimley Hospital on 31st May. This is an enormous achievement and due to the work of Jon E and the Alcohol Service at the Hospital. Free literature for inpatients is being provided by Health Liaison to support this new and exciting initiative.

I would be interested to hear ideas and suggestions from GSRs and their groups about how to engage GP Practices within Mid Surrey. Ideally, I am looking at one or two people from each group who would be willing to contact a local surgery and offer literature/further information about AA.

Please contact me by mail on [health@aamidsurrey.org.uk](mailto:health@aamidsurrey.org.uk) should you have any feedback

Yvette S  
Health Liaison Officer Mid Surrey Intergroup

### **SHARE LIAISON OFFICER**

It is two years to the day that I was voted in by you all as SLO – and I want to thank you all for allowing me to undertake two years of absolutely brilliant service. I have loved going round to all the meetings in our area (sometimes twice!) and want to thank you not only for making me so welcome but also for becoming more involved in Share magazine, both with subscriptions and photographs and articles.

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, I cannot continue in to do the service in the way it merits, so I have resigned and will be leaving this position at the end of June. I am truly sorry to be doing so but feel it is time for someone else to step into the position – and what a great position it is! Most of the service positions within Intergroup are about spreading the message outwards, encouraging further awareness of AA, whether via Public Information, Health, Schools or the Armed Services. SLO service is different.

Started in 1948, this service position is there to act as the liaison between every single meeting in our Intergroup and the editorial office of Share. It is specifically there to raise awareness **within** the Fellowship of the magazine and encourage all of us to share our Experience, Strength, & Hope with everyone in AA (especially importantly, for those who cannot get to meetings and rely on the magazine for their sobriety) by writing articles and sending in pictures.

That means the SLO has the perfect excuse to visit new meetings within the Intergroup, get to know all the GSRs and really get into the middle of the Fellowship 'bed' as it were.

I cannot recommend the service more highly and I would really be grateful if all GSRs could read this out at their own meetings and encourage anyone with two years sobriety and who fancies the position of Intergroup 'roving reporter' to apply for the position. I can help with any background and support needed – so please, please consider it – it really is a cracking piece of service.

In the meantime, my thanks to all of you for making me so welcome at all your meetings in the last two years.

Yours in Fellowship  
Lindsay M

### **TELEPHONE LIAISON OFFICER**

The Telephone Service has been running well with new three new responders offering their services and new names also being added to the 12 Step list. The number of calls answered and 12 Step visits made has been steady over the last few months with many first time callers finding their way to the Fellowship across the Intergroup, a reminder of how important the Telephone Service remains in our age of multichannel digital communications.

I have received reports from our responder team that there are more names that need to be removed from the 12 Step list, mainly due to service members relocation. I will be updating the list in the week following the MSIG Convention on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and would suggest a quarterly review and update going forward to keep the list as current as we can.

I'm also looking into the feasibility of allowing members who are interested in becoming 12 Steppers to submit their details electronically to compliment but not replace the existing paper system currently submitted by GSR's at Assembly.

YIF  
Peter G

### **SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER**

Since the last report there have been 3 school talks:-

Tiffin Boys in Kingston 8th Feb. and there is the possibility of them asking us back to talk to smaller groups next term.

Sunbury with Middlesex AA 28th March - this came about because of a request from Middlesex AA to help out with the talk because the person who had taken it over hadn't done any talks before. There might be a chance that I will be asked again.

George Abbot 8th May

3 talks were cancelled at George Abbot because the school brought forward the start of its exam revision programme, although they said they would like us to do more talks next term. This one on 8th went ahead.

I still haven't had any 'young' volunteers come forward to assist me with the talks and at the moment there are none arranged.

John

### **EMPLOYMENT LIAISON OFFICER**

Following on from my last report there has been some positive progress in ELO activity within the intergroup.

Firstly, about six weeks ago, I finally met with two senior managers from the job centre plus. Their remit is across Mid Surrey, managing the teams helping people back into work. I was able to explain what AA is and, just as importantly, what it is not, and how we might be able to help. They have 'complex caseworkers' to assist people who have a number of issues in securing employment and alcoholism is one of those obstacles. I gave them literature etc., and I am hoping to attend a team meeting of their staff so I can make a more structured presentation.

Secondly, we were contacted by a sergeant from Deepcut Barracks who was running a health fair for army personnel in April and had requested an A.A. presence. As our armed forces liaison officer designate was not yet in post, I picked this one up and with the help of Elizabeth from PI organised an AA presence on the day. We were delighted that Eddie, our new Armed Forces LO was able to join us, along with Seth, an AA member who had formerly served in the forces. Indeed, without Eddie's knowledge and security pass, I'm not sure we'd have got through the gate as security was

high. Nonetheless, we got in and we had several visitors to the stall from various army personnel but also other stall holders. We also were proactive in making contacts; I had a long conversation with the representative from the Samaritans who told me about their very intense training programme and then asked me what our selection criteria was in AA. I explained it was most rigorous! It was a useful day and a great example of team working across PI, employment and the Armed Forces Liaison.

Sue D  
ELO