

Questions for the Mid Surrey Intergroup Conscience September 2018

Dear GSR's and Officers,

Please find the questions this far submitted, below. The order of the questions is not yet decided. This selection will give you a chance to have a read of some background material if you wish.

Due to time restrictions at Assembly, any questions not addressed at the Conscience, could be discussed in a future GSR Forum.

We could also expect an annual Intergroup Conscience to ask how well the **Intergroup is fulfilling its aims which are to aid the constituent groups in their common purpose of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic, and, by using their combined strength and unity, to improve and maintain good relations with all organisations in the community.** (from the AA Structure Manual 'The Intergroup' -p 87). Perhaps this can be borne in mind during the Conscience.

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday. If you are unable to attend, please send an Alternate GSR who has been elected by your group. Please email Stef with their details beforehand if possible, as good practice. Visitors are always very welcome too.

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Q1 "Would the Assembly discuss how we, as an Intergroup can protect AA's "singleness of purpose".

This can be complicated by treatment centres (at times) sending non-alcoholics (people without a desire to stop drinking) to 'closed' AA meetings or to share at AA meetings (both 'open' and 'closed'). The sharing may then not be about problems with alcohol and a desire to stop drinking at all.

Background: -

- https://www.aa.org/newsletters/en_US/f-13_fall-winter02.pdf and
- https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-17_primarypurposestatementcard.pdf and
- "The Group" Chapter p 76 in our Structure handbook
- The Non Alcoholic Addict – p 12 of our AA Service handbook
- 'The Group' pamphlet (USA) https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-16_theaagroup.pdf page 13

Q2: Would the Assembly Conscience consider whether nominations for Mid Surrey Intergroup service positions should be made and supported by the nominees' respective Home Group GSR and/or Sponsor and/or an existing committee member?

Background:-

- 'The Group' (UK) pamphlet page 13
- The Concepts - for example Concept IX p 44 in our AA Structure Handbook

Q3. How are other Groups supporting PI (primarily at the Group level)?

If support comprises of 'outreach' - how would PI officers at intergroup ensure there is no overlap given the volume of meetings in one area, where multiple groups may share the same schools, surgeries, hospitals etc?

Background: -

- 'The Group' (UK) pamphlet page 18.
- The AA Service Handbook Chapter One

Q4. Does the meeting believe we should make available some guidance text to be added to groups' scripts around the subject of 13 stepping?

Text could include a short definition of what 13 stepping is along with some protective behavioural guidance for potential victims of such action.

This text could then be made available to groups where they feel it might be needed. In a similar way to the Medication - "We are not Doctors" text that is often read out as part of many meetings' scripts, after being added when this became an issue a couple of years ago.

Background: -

- The AA Structure Handbook 'The Group' Section 5, p 83 re Violence and Personal Conduct.
- A link to the Wiltshire Intergroup Guidance on 13 stepping will be added to the MSIG website as soon as possible.

Q5. What can a group and Intergroup do to fill service positions?

Although Sponsors promote service to their sponsees and many Chairs promote the importance of service – the same people seem to rotate around the service positions.

Q6. Would Mid Surrey Intergroup consider a proposal to formalize the planning of AA funded workshops?

Mid Surrey Intergroup has for many years organized AA-funded workshops for GSRs and other group members to attend and benefit from sharing on AA-related topics such as the Traditions, Concepts, Sponsorship and of course the Questions for discussion at Conference.

Additionally, for some time now there has been a proliferation of interactive discussion groups in the Mid Surrey Intergroup area. Although informal in nature, these discussion groups have been advertised in AA meetings as AA events and the organizers have sought and received AA funding from Mid Surrey Intergroup.

For GSRs it can be confusing to know which events to attend. In February 2017 a prayer and meditation evening at Guildford Cathedral was held just one week before the annual MSIG GSR workshop on Conference questions. This is the most

important Intergroup Workshop of the year and great efforts are made to maximize attendance by our GSRs.

Ideas for workshops could be forwarded to the intergroup Vice Chair for consideration at Committee and then submitted for approval by Assembly. The proposals submitted to Assembly could include the topic, timing, venue and financial budget. MSIG would then be able to plan ahead, to make sure that workshops are relevant and necessary and that AA funds are used appropriately. Crucially, forward planning would help Intergroup to remain focused on important issues in AA such as Conference.