

Liaison Reports for Intergroup Sep 2018

ARMED SERVICES LIAISON OFFICER

My second report as MSIG ASLO. The last three months have been relatively quiet although I have maintained my contacts with the Health and Wellbeing Point of Contact in Headquarters 11 Brigade based in Aldershot but responsible for Army Units across the MSIG area and the South East Region. I have had no requests to attend Unit Health Fairs over this period – please let me know if anyone is approached to take part in such an event and I can support.

The Army has started to recognise that alcohol misuse within the UK Armed Forces population is higher than in the UK general population. In 2017 they conducted a screening of all Armed Forces personnel who attended their mandatory annual dental inspection, with some 74% of regular Armed Forces personnel responding to a short questionnaire on alcohol usage. Following Public Health England and the Department of Health guidelines, dentists are seen as being in an ideal position to implement a screening tool and provide brief advice. The results showed that 61% of all military personnel were potentially at increasing risk or above of alcohol related harm.

Partly because of the fact that Armed Forces personnel are more likely to misuse alcohol, the Army has initiated a programme to train 2 x military Unit Alcohol Advisors (UAA) for every Army Unit (Battalion, Regiment, Training Establishment). They will receive 1 ½ days training *'including linking in with ASLOs for signposting advice and support and also to perhaps visit and brief at Unit level.'* The Army Health branch therefore appears keen to establish an ongoing link with between Unit Alcohol Advisors and ASLOs as part of this initiative – which is excellent news, but means ASLOs might be busier into 2019 and beyond. I have passed this information on to Region and the National Armed Services Sub Committee to make sure that this is passed on to all ASLOs.

I would be very grateful if GSRs would pass my contact details on to any ex- or serving-military in their groups so that I can start to assemble a list of MSIG military '12 Steppers' of different backgrounds and ages. This will be useful to reinforce the current team who help me out when I visit units, particularly as the Army seems likely to want have more contact with AA.

Yours in Fellowship

Eddy C.

Armed Services Liaison Officer
aslo@aamidsurrey.org.uk

177th South East Region Assembly - Burgess Hill 24th June 2018

Report to MSIG

Vacancies at Region:

Now: 1 Conference Delegate and 2 alternate Conference Delegates, YPLO, Share, Armed Services LO

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

Nominations:

Anne W. was voted in as 2nd SNC officer and Peter G. as Telephone LO

Conference Questions

The 5 delegates present each gave a briefing on their questions. The main points are the proposed

introduction of card readers at the 75th Southern National Convention and also their introduction at some meetings (1 in Guildford and 1 in London). Internet banking was also

discussed.

Regional Representative Reports:

Brighton and Hove: 30 of 56 groups reported at their intergroup, similar to Mid Surrey who

most recently had 36 of 70 GSR's in attendance and are typically around 36-45.

East Surrey: Lynn is their new Region Rep. 24 of 45 GSR's attended their last IG Assembly.

They have a mini convention at Birchington, North Kent on 9th September.

East Sussex: Eastbourne convention is 16-18 November at the Lansdowne Hotel in Eastbourne

Officer Reports:

SNC: Over 100 entries were received for the logo design competition for the 75th SNC and the winner was from the SE Region. The venue has been decided but details not released yet. 'One Day at a Time' song religious issue raised again. Box will be placed at convention for voting Yes/No on it's inclusion in future.

Secretary: Discussion of schedule for written reports. It was decided that reports prior to assembly

AND verbally should be bullet points only. Fuller detail can be given in written reports for publication afterwards with minutes.

Chair: Alan reported that the PI Roadshow in Guildford run by the Board Trustee Peter, had not notified the area IG and he thinks they should have. Many in agreement although some thought ample publicity had been given.

AOB:

Discussion Topic:

Maciej was introduced who spoke with enthusiasm on the Polish speaking groups in our region. A Polish version of Share is available, called HOPE. The first Polish meeting was 24 years ago in London. There are now 75 in UK, 22 in London, 45 in rest of England, 7 in Scotland and 2 in NI. There is a Skype meeting online and we have 4 Intergroups in the UK. Business cards were distributed with the helpline based in London Bridge, the website address etc. There are also 16 Polish speaking AI-Anon groups. There will be a table for a Polish AA workshop at the September Assembly. Next SE Region Assembly is 23rd September 2018.

This will also have Region Workshops. All liaison officers are encouraged to attend and all members of AA are welcomed.

Region Reps: Kevin (07770 940866) rotates out September; Marie (07527 599886); Michael (07957 125025) and at region@aamidsurrey.org.uk

Schools Liaison Officer Report

Not much has happened since my last report. I have had no more talks and the next one is in February 2019 at Tiffin Boys School in Kingston. I've emailed schools I emailed last year, but, like last year, I haven't had any replies yet. I've also sent emails before the end of this school year in July, to the contacts at the schools I've given talks to from Sept '17 to April '18. Hopefully, they will reply at the start of the next school year. I've contacted pi at Al-anon, Clive, and we spoke over the phone about co-ordinating our efforts. Al-anon haven't gone into schools in recent years and so they will be starting from scratch.

John

Probation Liaison Officer Report

Probation meeting is continuing well. Les from Guildford has taken position of secretary and Jo from Guildford has the literature spot covered.

Shaun

Prisons Liaison Officer Report

Dear GSRs, I have just started this service, so my report will be quite short.

Send Prison.

I have made contact at Send firstly with a lady in AA that goes on a Saturday. I am doing a chair on Saturday the 25rd of August so will find out a lot more details. They also do a meeting on a Thursday evening. I am not sure of the numbers yet but will update on my next report.

I have also contacted Sarah Peake who works in the prison. I will be meeting her next Tuesday at a RAPT's graduation. Again, I will add this into the next report.

Coldingley Prison.

I know all of the people who help out in this prison and these are Jackie and Lee on a Wednesday and Julie on a Monday. I am doing a chair 22nd of August. The numbers are between 6 and 12 people. Jackie is going to introduce me to the governor and security.

Aims this month:

I need to get security clearance for both prisons.

Start supporting the AA member who do service every week.

Build relationships with the Governors and staff in the prisons.

Hope this finds everyone well.

Yours Sincerely
Darren O

Employment liaison Report

There has been very little activity in terms of employers making contact with me. I have contacted probably all of the larger employers in the area and there is little interest: in my view, there is no point trying to 'manufacture' interest and so I have focused most of my efforts on my region employment liaison role in the last quarter.

While I don't want to create false work, if colleagues in PI or health are approached by organisations more suited to the ELO route, I'd be grateful if they would consider referring them to me.

Sue

Young Persons Liaison Role - September 2016 – September 2018

The main aim I've had as YPLO is to raise awareness about young people in AA and consequently ensure that any young people that seek to join have other young members to contact.

The service handbook has been my guide regarding how to make contact with young persons' services and charities outside of AA. With these I have sometimes gone alone, other times worked alongside other officers or other young AA volunteers. Not all services welcome a chat or literature but usually if I share my experience as a young person it is more likely to be received.

I will list a few of the things below:

- I started out by printing a leaflet (see attached) to hand out at meetings and assembly...this was because I was alone in the role, it was a fairly new role and I needed people to help and support me.
- I then got together a few young person's stories to put up on the website and influenced a page specifically for young people. I worked with our ECLO to do this.
- Young Persons Meeting: I attend and support this and ensure that we have a strong amount of recovery there at all times to support newcomers. It has been noted that any YP meetings that fail are usually because of a lack of stronger recovery. We don't limit attendance to young people but suggest that attendees and especially chairs are people who got sober before they were 30. This, as you can understand, is what helps identification.
- University of Surrey: I made contact with the wellbeing centre on site and met with the top wellbeing nurse. I also met with the Students Union head but unfortunately as they rotate out...I've lost contact and not managed to find contact with the new one yet.
- YMCA & other charities: More often than not, these have been a case of sending literature, having a contact there, making them aware of AA and exactly who we are and what we do. There's so much stigma and misconstrued perceptions that it just takes some ironing out most of the time. Keeping in contact and ensuring they know we are the other end of the phone or email is also very key.
- It mentions in the handbook about getting other young people involved in service, this takes a lot of work as we are busy people with some of us still studying and working and starting families and enjoying the life sobriety has given us...however, just making friends with different young people and having them as contacts has helped in me being able to call on

them to help out with volunteering at PI events and such like....the more they do the more they realize that it's a key part to recovery and become more willing to help out.

- I have worked with our TLO to add a column to our 12-step responder list, this means that a younger person (or person who came into recovery young) can be contacted to respond to a call that comes through the helpline. (More needs to be done on this)

- I've also tried to make sure GSR's know who I am and have my contact if needed, I usually stand up in assembly to let them know who I am and how to contact me, this is just so that, should a young person attend a meeting and the GSR meets them and feels they'd value more identification and contact with younger persons, they can contact me...I can then chat with the young person or put them in contact with other young persons.

Zara

PI Liaison Officer Report

In mid Surrey I have made contact with Guildford CAMHS who have agreed in principle to 3 talks (youth, staff and parents/guardians). Details later.

One of the largest GP Surgeries has shown interest in a presentation.

Surrey BBC Radio is interested in an interview for Community Heros programme.

Article for Newspaper in draft.

Am working with Armed Forces to do another stall at the barracks next month.

Elizabeth

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS LIAISON OFFICER

I started the position of ECLO in June. Ellie our former ECLO has trained me for the position extensively and thoroughly. Since then I have been updating the website with current news and helping Committee Officers with the set up of the emails.

At present I am familiarising myself with the structure of the website. I do have future plans for improving communication on the site as ongoing project and collaborate on the matter with Alice (Chair), Steph (Secretary) and Ellie (former ECLO).

Yours in fellowship Dina