



PI Service News

*“Easy does it.....
but do it!”*

Shared Service Experience



NOVEMBER 2018

Please pass on this newsletter to your friends in the Fellowship, either by forwarding via email or by printing copies to take to your local meetings. Anyone who wants their personal copy of the newsletter should send us their email address to the address below. You can also drop a line to GSO with any items for inclusion.

Please note the contact address: aainformation@gsogb.org.uk



Calling all Regional and Intergroup Public Liaison Officers

Come to the **PUBLIC INFORMATION ROADSHOW**

A chance to swap ideas on how to carry the message of AA including:

- * Dealing with all forms of media.
- * How to NOT go it alone.
- * Forming a PI group of service helpers
- * PI Service News and how it can help you.
- * How to access and use the FREE resources from AA
- * Pick up a PI Materials pack

Event details

Date: Sunday 9th December 2018

Venue: The Park Royal Hotel, Streeton Road, Stretton, Warrington, WA4 4NS

Time: 11.00 am (prompt) – to around 4.00 pm

Welcome, Tea and Coffee will be served from 10 a.m. and LUNCH will be provided.

We look forward to seeing all Regional and Intergroup Public Liaison Officers at our first Northern PI Roadshow.

If you require any further information regarding the event please contact Jenny at the General Service Office (contact details below).

Please confirm attendance by contacting the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous on 01904 644026 or by e-mail to jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk

Peter Fryer – Trustee for Public Information.

Newport Alcohol and Travel Exhibition

Wales and Borders Region's *PILO Jerry L.*, East Lancs I/G *Daniel C.*, P.I. Sub-committee's *Andrew H.* on Wednesday 19th September, for Alcoholics Anonymous had a display at a Conference hosted by Alcohol Concern (Wales) in Newport.

The theme of the event was **Alcohol and Travel** and was attended by a variety of concerned professions. This included medical and educational professionals and speakers. Officers from a variety of **Police Forces** across the country, **Local Health Authorities in Wales** and staff from local **Substance Misuse Services**.

Relevant Literature was supplied by GSO to cover the anticipated **audience**. Also included were some of the new **Posters, Literature Catalogues** and order forms and most popular on the day **AA Contact Cards**, both post card and credit card size.

During the day, the audience listened to some talks from the professionals at the event and in the intervals the AA members mingle with the delegates talking about AA and what it does and does not do. We ensured the stand was manned at all times for those who wanted to walk up to the stand. GSO had also supplied a **Pull Up Stand** available on request from the office. This was returned by courier the following day - GSO arrange all of this!

During the event the delegates were asked to split into groups to discuss some suggestions for Government Policy on Drink Driving laws, the exhibitors at the event, including AA were asked to join these groups. This invite was politely declined, recognising Traditions 6 and 10.

Edinburgh & Midlothian Public Information Activities 2018

PILO Dougie K writes:-

February – Attended a stand at an NHS Staff Health and Wellbeing Day. The picture below shows an iPad on the stand running a **PowerPoint Presentation** on a loop – this gets people to **Stop, Look and Chat**.



17th May Held an **Open Meeting Workshop** in **Edinburgh** attended by 34 professionals

1st June – **School talk** to 60 students **George Heriots**

4th June – Met with **Sheriff Crowe** who sits on the **Alcohol Problem Court** – Interested in the reintroduction of the chit system.

19th June – Held an awareness session for **11 Health & Wellbeing Champions** from **Police Scotland** at **St Leonard's**

21st June – 3 A.A. members attended **Edinburgh College Healthy Working Lives Day** for all 650 staff – hosted a stand in the main Hub and facilitated 2 workshops, pictured above.

1st August – Meeting with Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh & *Al-Anon* to kick off recovery event planned for January 2019

20th August – **North East Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)** operational meeting **Leith Police Station**

30th August – **South West Community Alcohol Partnership** launch event

10th September - **Edinburgh University Freshers Week Stand**

12th September – **Broughton High School Edinburgh** talk, 80 pupils

18th September - School talk - **Fettes College, Edinburgh** 120 pupils

19th September - School talk **St Georges School** for girls 60 pupils

24th September - **South West Edinburgh CAP** with other agencies and **Police Scotland**

8th October - **North East Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)** operational meeting **Leith Police Station** planning for *Alcohol Awareness Week* events and where AA can have input (talks & literature)

30th October – School talk **St Mary’s Music School** approx 40

20th & 21st – November **8TH European Alcohol Policy Conference** 2 days event 8 AA members invited to attend.

23rd November - School talk **Craigmount High School** 9.30am

6th December - School talk **Balerno High School** (2 groups 80 pupils per group)

15th January – **Many Paths to Recovery Event – Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP)** invited AA share AA stand, speakers and archives

1st February 2019 – School talk **St George’s School for Girls** approx 100 pupils.

“**Adopt a Doctor**” scheme – **I/G Repts**. Commit to visit some of their local **G.P’s** to provide literature and to keep it updated.

Young People Liaison – are visiting **Universities and Colleges** arranging **A5 Posters** to be put in existing frames on the back of **Toilet Doors**. A similar attempt is being made with **Nightclubs**. **Posters and Contact Cards** sent to **Managers of Student Halls of Residence**.

[visit the AA Edinburgh website](#) - an example of a *Clear, Attractive and Informative Website*

South Midlands Region

Summary of Region PILO activity:

- Communications with PILOs & welcoming new PILO’s (5 out of 7)
- Attending Region Assembly in Swindon 19 Aug
- Research Poster Campaign for SMRA IG’s & Region
- Met with WIG PILO 30/7 in Reading
- Met with new C&T PILO 29/7
- Chased GSO for publication date of the new videos ...still not available
- Liaison with Severn IG in Awareness Day for Professionals planning.
- Submitted Question for Conference ref AA branding

South Midlands Region *Young People’s LO Andrew J* went to the young person’s meeting in Guildford to share and meet with group members to discuss ways to attract more people into AA. Travelled to meet with *Amanda G.* to welcome her to her new role and offer support to her. Have been continuing to support the new young person’s group in **Bristol**. Both **ANIG** and **ASIG** have new YP reps, have met with the and continuing to support them in their roles

Avon North I/G PILO Andy S

Invited by **Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health NHS Trust** to attend the **Recovery Festival** in September.

Activity in the **Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community – Gay Pride**, in July, a display table in the main community tent.

Chiltern and Thames I/G PILO Gail P

Budget of £12k agreed, and research under way, for a **Raising AA Awareness campaign**.

Severn I/G

AA Awareness Day in Cheltenham on 25th October.

South Midlands I/G PILO Tim M

- PI Workshop – well attended
- Coming up: Presentation of "poster" campaign to be held in the South Midlands Region.
- New mini poster campaign going well, a lot of GSR's took posters during the last IG meeting. My special thanks to Jocelyn for putting a poster in the **Student Unions** around all the **Universities in Oxford**.
- **Brackley Group** did a Conscience Meeting on the **Group Involvement** in Public Information.
- **Banbury Lodge** rehab clinic have asked AA to come in every Sunday night at 7:30 and speak about recovery. It's early days yet but the response from the clients has been overwhelming.
- *Mark* from **Dorchester** meeting is new contact for **Turning Point in Didcot**.
- We are waiting to hear from **Turning Point Oxford** about going tin there to speak to their service users. The **Alcohol Lead** is arranging a time for me to come in and discuss with other advisors.

Thames Valley I/G PILO Ian B

- TVIG has agreed to donate next contribution to region towards our area poster campaign, between £1,000 and £1,500.
- Working on plans for the use of pop up AA displays, e.g. **Royal Berkshire Hospital**.
- To investigate pop up stand or posters at **TV Police and Reading Railway Station**.

Wiltshire I/G PILO Peter W

- Early Jan-Took part in **Hosted Bath and North East Somerset ½ day Blue Light Training Event** 'Working with Change Resistant Drinkers' Facilitated by **DHI-Solid Networking** opportunity to gently spread our message that AA is a key part of the **Local Recovery Landscape**
- Mid April- Gave a 10 minute telephone interview with **BBC Radio Wilts** (mindful of tradition 11) on the theme 'Is there growing sympathy for alcoholics?' This was stimulated by recent *Ant McP* experience. Our local **WIG 24 hr Helpline Number** was given out on air twice during the broadcast.
- Work continues with a strong routine focus on **Schools Awareness Talks** and the **RUH Hospital** daily phone in and visit service.
- **Bath PI** node is currently being 'reinvigorated' with the prime purpose to reach out to a range of focussed PI contact / agencies via Posters, Contact Cards & Offer of c. one hour **AA Awareness Sessions** to the specific agencies staff / team members. We hope to have the this local PI hub up and running by Sept Intergroup meeting and to use the experience to replicate similar local PI hubs / Nodes for say, **Swindon, Salisbury and West Wilts**.
- **AA for Professionals** – to consider a less demanding Open 2 to 3 hour **AA Workshop for Health Professionals**, hosted by say the **Salisbury, Bath and /or Swindon Hospitals?** Rather than the one day AA hosted 'Seminar for Professionals', which has been run in recent years, whilst being a very successful proven formula, it does demand a huge commitment of time from a very few AA willing volunteers.

Working with the POLICE

East Lancs I/G's PILO Daniel C writes:-

We are getting busy with activity with the **Police** in **East Lancs Intergroup** at the minute which is good to see. The new **Licencing Sergeant** is really keen to work even more closely with us and given us some avenues of work recently. This morning been to a 2nd session with local landlords of pubs and clubs on a **Pubwatch** Scheme giving information on AA for 30 mins with **Police** and **Council** present as well as local **Publicans** - always an interesting crowd to present to, 2 of the landlords wanted a pint before I started the chair of the meeting and landlady of the pub was shouting (or should I say grassing them up lol).

Next week I have a meeting with **Custody Inspector** with regards to us working more closely and supplying literature for prisoners to read in cells and information on AA for people when they are discharged for drink offences.. This month sees our 2 year anniversary of working on the REFLECT drink awareness course with the Police and **Drink and Disorderly Offenders** which we find a very good platform for us to get the message across to many that appear to be suffering, usually a high proportion of the audience admits they have a problem with the booze and are willing to listen to the solutions we have to offer.

We are looking for avenues now of working with the **Early Action Team and Cadets** with our *YPLO* and willing *YP's*. I also have a telephone meeting with **Greater Manchester Police** next week about working more closely with them as my intergroup spans over 2 different police forces. Compared to 10 years ago the Police are much more open arms approach to co-operating with AA and to be honest they are much easier to work with in my experience than the NHS and they attend **Open and Public Events** more generally too in this area. If you are looking for an avenue of work to get into as a *PI Officer* and need any hints and tips of how to get into working with your local Police then please feel free to give me a shout.

Hamilton AA Public Information Event (at Hamilton Academicals Football Club)

Lanarkshire West I/G PILO Caroline G provides the Programme for this Event, including a Demonstration Meeting, the Feedback article submitted to the local newspaper – the **Reformer**- by a local Councillor, and feedback from an Addictions Charge Nurse.

PROGRAMME

- * 10.00am: Join us for some refreshments and networking. There will be literature available to take away and A.A. members in attendance to answer any questions you may have.
- * 10.30am: Presentation introducing A.A. in Scotland and outlining the free services that A.A. has to offer Professionals and how these services are already working successfully.
- * 11.00am: **You will have a unique opportunity to observe an A.A. Meeting.** This will be a demonstration meeting conducted, as it would normally be run, at the many A.A. Groups throughout **Lanarkshire**. The participants will all be A.A. members who have agreed to this meeting being open for observers. There will be time made available for a Q & A session with the members participating.
- * 11.45am: *Members and Service Liaison Officers* will be available to talk with individuals about our key service areas: **Health & Social Care, Criminal Justice Education and Young People.**
- * 12.45pm close

The aim of this event is provide some insight into Alcoholics Anonymous and how our **12 Step Programme and Meetings** can help problem drinkers recover from alcoholism. You'll hear about the free services we can provide to those involved with problem drinkers including how we provide talks and literature for **Schools, Colleges, Universities, other Agencies and Employers.**

More about AA

A.A in the UK has more than 70 years of experience involving thousands of problem drinkers and alcoholics, we have firsthand experience with all kinds of people, in all phases of active alcoholism and recovery. Our service to those seeking help is totally confidential, free and our membership remains anonymous.

Rutherglen Liberal Democrat Councillor Robert Brown has praised the work of Alcoholics Anonymous after a briefing and presentation from the organisation at an event in Hamilton last week.

Robert Brown said:

“Alcohol addiction remains one of the biggest social problems in Scotland – it is a “progressive illness” which destroys individuals, damages families, contributes to violence and crime in society and adds immensely to the demands on the Health Service. The work of Alcoholics Anonymous has been responsible for helping many thousands of people to tackle their alcohol problem with the aid of fellowship of other AA members and a structured programme of recovery.

Alcoholics Anonymous work on the basis of anonymity and confidentiality so I was fortunate to be able to listen to a presentation along the lines of a real, normal AA meeting where people were brave enough to tell their stories – some of them very harrowing – and their insights.

It is not uncommon for people with alcohol addiction to lose contact with families, partners, children and grandchildren and friends. But there were also many stories of problems overcome, lives rebuilt, contacts re-established.

AA has been on the go for 83 years and began in Scotland in 1949. In Lanarkshire alone there are now around 102 AA groups serving both men and women, young and old alike. The main message I picked up was that AA offers hope to people who had thought they were alone with a unique problem but who can be helped by others in a similar situation. The key thing is to want to stop drinking – AA had an interesting saying – “if you don’t lift the first drink, you can’t get drunk”.

What impressed me most was the quality of the support. When people make contact through their Helpline or otherwise, there is a close contact to welcome them into the group, usually at an initial Care and Share meeting and by personal contact from AA – and no judgement if people backslide as sometimes happens. This is very important because alcoholism is a “lonely disease” requiring the fellowship of support that AA offers.

The message from AA is that “you are no longer alone” and that there is hope.

The AA national free number is 0800 9177 650 and covers the whole of Great Britain. There is also help by email at help@aamail.org and lots more information at www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk including where to find meetings. There is also a Chat Now facility on the website.

There is a full section for newcomers including a questionnaire on drinking habits at: <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/About-AA/Newcomers/Starter-Pac>

Addictions Charge Nurse

My colleagues and I would like to thank you for the presentation today. We found this to be very educational and useful and given the information provided it will allow us to incorporate the information into our practice, thus improving treatment plans for service users.

We would also like to thank the members of the group who overrode their anonymity and shared their experiences. We found their experiences to be very thought provoking and emotional. These experiences certainly allowed us to gain further insight into problematic alcohol use and the effects it has not only on the person and their families but their overall lifestyle. Thanks once again.

PLEASE pass on your experiences to the address below. PI Service news is fortunate to receive a great deal of information from throughout Great Britain and Continental European Region.

If anything you have sent hasn’t appeared, please try again.

INTERGROUP SECRETARIES – please pass on Public Information Service News to Group Service Representatives, by e-mail or hard copy.

Please note the contact address: aainformation@gsogb.org.uk