

Winter 2025

AA Service News

From the General Service Office of Great Britain



Questions for Conference 2026

12 Traditions Checklist

2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.



1. Do I criticise or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees and office workers?
2. Newcomers? Old-timers?
3. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
4. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
5. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group consensus and work cheerfully along with it?
6. Although I have been sober for a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
7. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

From the AAGB "Traditions Checklist"

AA Service News

Welcome to the Winter Edition of AA Service News.

We are really pleased to remind you that **AA Service News is now available in print and digitally**. Please find space for it on your AA literature table, and please hand out copies to group members and newcomers. You can find the Calendar of Events on the **AAGB website**.

Share Your Service Experience!

Contributions on your service experience in the Fellowship are welcomed from all areas – individuals, groups, intergroups, regions, sub-committees, GSB. Please send in your articles, **AA Service News is about YOUR service!**

AA Service News is published in early March, June, September and December each year with deadline dates of the last Friday of January, April, July and October. The General Service Conference report is published each year in the summer issue and Questions and Topics for the following year's Conference in the winter edition.

Please send your service-related articles to:
editor.aasn@aamail.org

We look forward to hearing from **you!**



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AA Service News

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**What's happening in your
intergroup and region?**

**Don't forget to send in your
region and intergroup Minutes
and Agendas to:**

aainformation@gsogb.org.uk

Any pictures contained within this edition are stock images. They are not of alcoholics. No one's anonymity has been broken.

Alternate Chair's Report: Conference 2026

My name's Gary - and I'm an alcoholic.

I'm writing this report as Alternate Chair for our 2026 Conference on the 2,421st day of my sobriety and I'm truly blessed to have the opportunity to do so. I'm also amazed at how much my life has changed in this relatively short period of time, and I'm so grateful to the incredible Fellowship that saved my life and took me from a hospital bed and a psychiatric unit to the beautiful life I'm living today.

My home group is the Yoker Big Book Group in Glasgow, and I'm a third year Conference Delegate from Glasgow Region. I'm privileged to have been elected as Chair of Committee 5 for Conference 2026 by my delegate peers, and even more privileged to be elected as Alternate Chair for Conference 2026 by this year's Conference Steering Committee.

The first General Service Conference of AA in Great Britain took place in Manchester in 1966 so we will be celebrating our 60th Conference in 2026. That first Conference came together under the banner of "Only with the spirit of goodwill and willingness to discuss problems with an open mind, which has prevailed throughout, could this great measure of unity and purpose be achieved". From my experience, that same spirit is still alive and well today.

Our Conference is primarily a service body, and it acts as the group conscience of the Fellowship in Great Britain. The Conference Steering Committee (CSC) comprises the Conference Chair and the Chairs of the six Conference Committees. This is supplemented by two Board members for guidance, support and continuity, and the General Secretary and our Conference Coordinators who provide logistical support, advice and guidance for the development of the Conference agenda and itinerary. The 2026 CSC comprises:

- Richard P-S - Conference Chair (South West Region)
- Mark T - Chair Committee 1 (North East Region)
- Dave W - Chair Committee 2 (South West Region)
- Cath W - Chair Committee 3 (Highlands & Islands Region)
- Angela Y - Chair Committee 4 (Glasgow Region)
- Gary H - Chair Committee 5 (Glasgow Region)
- Phil S - Chair Committee 6 (Eastern Region)
- Angela S - Trustee & Board Member
- Jim M - Trustee & Board Member
- Ranjan B - General Secretary
- Sharon S - Conference Coordinator
- Emma W – GSO Administrator

The General Secretary and Conference Coordinator/Administrator are non-voting members of the CSC and at our first meeting (see below) the voting members of the CSC (Conference Chair and Committee Chairs) voted to accept that the two Trustees sit and vote with them as part of the overall process. This was consistent with prior years and reflects the spirit of Concept IV.

The CSC's Terms of Reference principally comprises two important elements. The first is the selection of questions to be submitted to Conference and the second is to ensure that Conference fulfils the purpose devised by our Co-Founders; to be part of the system of check and balance ensuring that AA Great Britain continues in accordance with our Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

The first meeting of the CSC took place online (using Zoom) on 9th May 2025. This was largely an orientation meeting to bring everyone up to speed with the process, our responsibilities and our accountabilities. At the meeting Dave W was elected as Secretary to the Committee and Gary H was elected as Alternate Chair.

At the meeting the existing CSC Terms of Reference were reviewed and approved and we assessed the feedback from Conference 2025. We also reviewed the matrix for Conference 2025 which provides an update on any and all outstanding matters from previous Conferences - note this is now renamed as the Conference Tracker and is also published in this edition of AA Service News. We also considered our approach to questions that were due to be submitted and agreed that we should be looking for questions which were highly relevant right now, compelling, engaging and focused on helping the Fellowship better deliver our primary purpose.

Following some confusion at Conference 2025 it was made clear at the meeting that any abstention from a vote at Conference 2026 would be excluded when determining the result of the vote on any question/ resolution. In other words, any majority decision would be determined without the abstention being considered. This will be made clear at Conference.

The second meeting of the CSC was held in person at the GSO on York across 5th and 6th September. This was an intense but very enjoyable couple of days where every question submitted by the 31st August deadline was reviewed, discussed and debated in detail with a view to determining which ones should be presented to Conference 2026. From a personal perspective it was powerful to be part of such a collaborative process, working shoulder to shoulder with such good people steeped in our Traditions and Concepts. The room was low on ego and full of humility, goodwill, good humour and a genuine love for our Fellowship. It was also highly focused on how we might all best help the alcoholic who still suffers

Richard, our Conference Chair, opened the meeting by revealing the theme he had chosen for Conference 2026:

LOVE AND TOLERANCE OF OTHERS.

We all agreed it was a great choice and would set the right tone for the Conference overall.

This year we had 90 questions from the Fellowship to consider - a record number of submissions and up from 85 last year and 50 in the year prior to that. The number of questions alone shows an increasing willingness of members of the Fellowship to participate in the overall Conference process which is heartening in itself. Going in, we had a target of trying to get to 12 questions - 2 per Committee - but as we got into the process it became much more about quality over quantity and we set about getting what we thought were the right questions to debate rather than being hampered by any such targets.

Each question was assessed for its suitability against the 12 criteria as laid out in the CSC Terms of Reference. As part of this process the CSC has to be careful not to carry any opinions or prejudices into the process, and also has to avoid trying to answer the questions as they go. As a group I think we were good at regulating each other within this context.

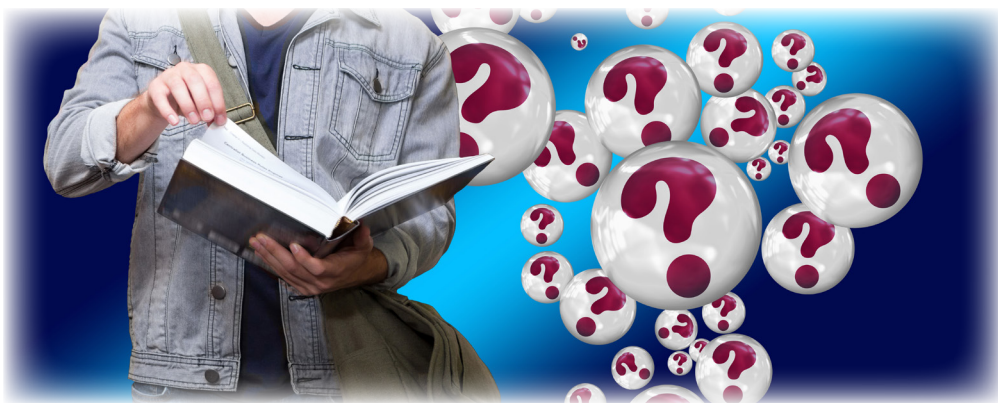
The questions covered a broad and diverse range of topics including finance matters, technology, safeguarding, the effectiveness of Conference, literature, inclusivity, transparency, the application of our spiritual principles and how we carry the message on a day-to-day basis - amongst others.

Many questions overlapped each other and many were very similarly worded - suggesting multiple questions from the same source. Some questions were referred directly to the General Service Board, or a relevant Sub-Committee of the Board, for their consideration and response on the basis that they would be best situated to provide such a response or to consider any necessary action. Some questions after discussion weren't accepted.

Every question was given a reasonable amount of time, and every question was given a fair hearing.

I think its fair to say that the tone of the questions varied from being genuinely worded with the best interests of the Fellowship at heart to some which were quite antagonistic and seemed quite personal. That said, every question was still discussed with the same degree of purpose in order to make sure good questions weren't missed purely due to the manner in which they were asked, placing principles before personalities.

From this session two questions were accepted as presented, eight questions were accepted on the basis of of minor rewording or as a composite (amalgamation) of very similar questions, and one was put back to the person raising the question for more background information. In addition one question was considered a "maybe" subject to further consideration.



The reworded / composite questions were allocated to Committee Chairs in pairs to work on ahead of the next planned CSC session. At the meeting it was agreed that the same Committee Chair pairs would work together at a later date on providing written responses to all the questions which weren't accepted, with appropriate explanations.

The next meeting of the CSC was held again in person at The General Service Office in York across 10th and 11th October. The focus of this meeting was to review the composite and reworded questions and to finalise the agreed questions for Conference. This was again an intensive and hard working session from which 11 final questions emerged and were allocated across the six Committees on a randomised basis (ie. no Committee Chair got to pick any questions going to the Committee they are to chair).

An additional question had been received after the 31st August deadline and presented as an emergency resolution. After careful consideration it was decided that this didn't meet the criteria as an emergency matter for discussion at Conference and therefore wasn't considered further.



Looking at the 90 questions again at the end of the process, 13 questions submitted made the Conference shortlist either in full or in part meaning that 77 questions were not accepted. Of these 2 have been referred to the Chair of the General Service Board, 9 to the Honorary Treasurer and 8 to other Sub-Committees of the Board for further consideration and comment. I'll also try and respond to 12 of the questions not accepted on behalf of the CSC in the Alternate Chair Report at Conference. All 77 questions not accepted will receive an acknowledgement and appropriate explanation from the CSC through the Committee Chair pairings highlighted earlier, hopefully by the end of November. If a question has been accepted in full or in part this will be confirmed by the Conference Coordinator in due course and before the publication of the Winter Service News.

In addition to the questions the CSC has accepted for Conference 2026 there will be literature questions allocated across the Committees at a later stage. At this stage it is not clear how many questions this will entail.

The Conference Tracker was again reviewed at this meeting with good progress being made across all the relevant actions from prior Conferences. The CSC has recommended that a bit more detail be provided in the Conference Tracker than have historically been included, recognising that this is not a project plan, but more a means for Conference to have visibility of the progress being made and to ensure we have the right level of accountability on these matters. *[see page 32 this issue for Conference Tracker]*

The final meeting of the CSC is scheduled (online) on 6th and 7th February 2026 to finalise and agree the itinerary and logistics for Conference 2026. Committee Secretaries will, for the first time, be invited to join this meeting for the 7th February session.

When thinking through the overall Conference planning process and looking at some of the issues being raised by the Fellowship, it is clear that there is greater need for transparency and openness across the entire process. From a personal perspective, I don't believe there is any deliberate attempt at obfuscation at any level of our structure in this regard, and there is a real desire within the CSC to dispel any thoughts and considerations that there might be. There are degrees of confidentiality that need to be preserved on some matters but this openness is hopefully demonstrated with the publication of a more detailed Conference Tracker as well as the decision of the CSC that all the questions that haven't been accepted for Conference be published in full on the AAGB website along with all background reference material and links. Both these practices will hopefully demonstrate not only openness but real accountability across our structure.

The CSC has also committed to providing as complete answers as possible to all questions which have not been accepted as historically this may have been done on too abbreviated a basis.

In terms of any questions directed by the CSC to the General Service Board or one other of its sub-committees (described as TOR 8 questions) there appears a desire that these should be reported on in some way. This falls outside the scope and remit of the CSC but we have been assured that any and all such matters will be reported back to the Fellowship through our normal communication channels. The CSC has requested though that Board consider whether some form of consolidated reporting of such matters might increase transparency and be of benefit to the Fellowship as a whole.

There also remains some issues and confusion around the distinction between the Board as a legal charitable entity and the Fellowship as a whole - and therefore the role of the Board itself. A good example being around safeguarding. This at times can cause some unnecessary friction which hopefully can be ironed out over time through improved communication and engagement from all of us involved in our service structure.

From some of the questions raised there also seems a desire to make our Conference more effective and this CSC is fully on board with this suggestion too. Each year it would be good if we commit to ensure at least one question to Conference fulfils that need - and we as the 2026 CSC have done so this year. We would recommend that future CSC's carry this forward as a standing action as well.

We are only part way through the process of helping to deliver Conference 2026. It has been personally demanding on my time but I'm loving every single moment of it. I had know idea of the reach and extent of our incredible Fellowship and the incredible work it does till I took up my sponsor's challenge to be "all in" on service. I'm so glad I've been given the opportunities to rise to this challenge and I relish the prospect of being able to do more.

To be small part of the whole in terms of Conference 2026 is an honour. It's also so exciting and so humbling. So much so I almost don't want it to end - but we're not there yet!

LIF

Gary H, Alternate Chair - Conference 2026



THANK YOU

The CSC would like to thank everyone who has submitted a question towards Conference 2026 and hopes they will stay involved and support the process further in the future.



69th Scottish National Convention

'A NEW BEGINNING'

24 – 26th April 2026

**Queens Hall, 9 Argyle Street,
DUNOON PA23 7HH**

(Travel by road or ferry)

Weekend Registration £20 (including dance ticket)

Saturday Day Ticket £15 (with dance ticket, £18)

**To register and find out more information about
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www.scottishnationalconvention.co.uk

Any questions, email:

convention.snc@aamail.org

Full Al-Anon programme throughout the weekend

**Sponsored by all 5 Scottish Regions
Alcoholics Anonymous GB**



Questions for Conference 2026

Introduction

Every year, AA Service News presents Questions for Conference. These questions have been raised by the Fellowship and selected by the Fellowship for discussion and resolution by the Fellowship at the annual AA Great Britain (AAGB) Conference. Conference is due to be held in York on April 17-19th 2026. This is your opportunity to read the questions and voice your opinions to your conference delegates, group, intergroup and region over how AA works.

Please consider the contribution each question has in carrying the message together with any financial and practical implications.

Conference questions and background information is available from the AA Great Britain website 'Document Library': <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Document-Library>

Committee No. 1

1. Would Conference consider the adoption of inclusive wording in the AA GB Preamble - specifically replacing "a fellowship of men and women" with "a fellowship of people" - in light of AA's Responsibility Pledge and the Third Tradition.

Background

- 2022 Conference Decision (Committee 5, Question 1)
- Responsibility Pledge
- Tradition 3 (Long Form)

2. Would Conference discuss and recommend suggestions as to how our AA Groups could increase their 7th Tradition contributions so that our Fellowship is as financially robust as it can be for the future in terms of carrying its message to the still suffering alcoholic?

What Issue Does This Address?

In recent years (since 2022/23) the Prudent Reserves across the Fellowship has come under pressure due to declining contributions and increasing costs. With societal moves towards a cashless society and the norm of "the pound in the pot" this is likely to continue unless the trend can be reversed.

Whilst Gift Aid and Gratitude Week are good and worthy initiatives, they will not address the ongoing structural issues the Fellowship faces in terms of its ongoing funding needs from Groups down through structure to the General Service Board. It is therefore appropriate that this issue be addressed as soon as practicable.

Has This Issue Been Discussed Before Within ...

The ongoing finances of the Fellowship have been discussed extensively in Conference and all through structure in recent years. From experience this is very much a "hot topic" across the Fellowship as a whole.

UK Prices & Purchasing Power Report (1975–2025)

Purchasing Power of £1 (in 2025 equivalent)

Year	£1 in that year equals (2025 £)
1975	£10.72
1985	£3.87
1995	£2.46
2005	£1.91
2015	£1.42
2025	£1.00

Average Prices of Selected Goods (1975–2025)

Item	1975	1985	1995	2005	2015	2025
Pint of lager	£0.23	£0.80	£1.66	£2.41	£3.45	£4.70–5.00
Pint of bitter	£0.20	£0.72	£1.48	£2.13	£2.96	£3.50–4.50
Glass of wine (175ml)	£0.25–0.40*	£0.90*	£1.50–2.00*	£2.20–2.50*	£3.46	£4.50–5.20
Packet of cigarettes (20)	£0.42*	£1.20–1.60*	£2.59	£4.57	£8.88	£15–17
Pint of cider	£0.18–0.30*	£0.70–0.90*	£1.40–1.80*	£2.00–2.40*	£3.00–3.50*	£3.50–4.50
Can of Coca-Cola (330ml)	£0.06–0.10*	£0.20–0.35*	£0.60*	£0.75–1.00*	£0.90–1.20*	£1.00–1.50
Bottle of wine (75cl)	£1.00–1.50*	£3.50–4.50*	£5.00–6.50*	£6.50–8.00*	£7.50–9.00*	£8–12
Bottle of vodka (70cl)	£4–8*	£8–12*	£10–15*	£12–18*	£12–20*	£15–25+
Bottle of whisky (70cl)	£4–10*	£10–16*	£12–18*	£15–25*	£15–30*	£20–40+
Bottle of gin (70cl)	£4–8*	£8–12*	£10–16*	£12–18*	£12–20*	£15–30+
Cup of coffee (café)	£0.05–0.10*	£0.20–0.35*	£0.60–1.00*	£1.00–1.60*	£2.00–2.80*	£2.50–4.00

Notes:

* Starred figures are estimates based on historical price guides, inflation adjustments, or industry averages where ONS item series were unavailable.

ONS RPI/CPI item series were used wherever possible for accuracy (e.g. pints of lager/bitter from 1995+, cigarettes, wine glass 2015+, etc.).

2025 prices are based on the latest available 2024/early 2025 data and market reports.

- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions - Tradition Seven
- Concept XII - Warranty Two (The AA Structure Handbook for GB 2025/26)
- The Pot... Where AA money and spirituality mix (AAGB pamphlet)
- AA Money - Page 100 AA Structure Handbook for GB 2024

How Will the Alcoholic Who Still Suffers Benefit ?

By ensuring the hand of AA will always be there.

3. Review revised Chapter 7 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe – AA in Prisons

Background

Revised ~Chapter 7 – AA in Prisons

Link: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2026/>

Committee No. 2

1. Would Conference share their experience, and consider the need to expand on the guidance provided in the Structure Handbook (page 119) with specific reference to children, minors and juveniles attending AA meetings?

What Issue Does This Proposal Address?

Whilst the Fellowship has general safeguarding guidelines referencing this matter, it is felt that the Fellowship would benefit from sharing its experience on this subject given the increasing needs of parents/guardians to bring their children to the meetings they attend, as well as children, minors and juveniles attending meetings in their own right.

Background Material

- AA Structure Handbook for GB 2025/26 - page 119

How Will the Alcoholic Who Still Suffers Benefit

Although groups are autonomous, by sharing their experience how we might accommodate parents/guardians and their children in meetings we will make our meetings more accessible to those with parental demands.

By making it clearer how best the Fellowship can support children, minors and juveniles who may suffer from alcoholism we will be helping our members to be of maximum service to those so affected.

2. Would Conference discuss how the Conference process could be made more attractive, inclusive, and engaging for the Fellowship, so that all members and groups feel connected to, and part of, the way AA's collective conscience is expressed?

Background

The General Service Conference is where AA's collective conscience is expressed for our Fellowship as a whole. Concept One tells us that the **final authority and responsibility rests with the groups**. But some members/groups feel distant from the process, unsure how to connect with it.

The aim is to help all members feel connected to our collective conscience.

AA GB Structure Handbook 2025/26:

- Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain & Continental Europe – Section 6. The Twelve Concepts
- The General Service Conference
- General Service Conference Pamphlet

Committee No. 3

1. Does Conference believe the Fellowship is doing enough to help and support older alcoholics in finding our Fellowship and finding recovery? Would Conference consider what more could be done to make our Fellowship more accessible to older people with serious alcohol related issues?

•

What Issue Does This Address?

I came to the Fellowship as a 57-year-old man who thought they had they had lived their life with alcoholic loneliness my only future. Whilst I was welcomed on my arrival I found (very) few people coming to the Fellowship at a similar age to myself and who had similar shared experience, though

I did see specific support for younger people, people of colour, people with issues other than alcohol, gender diversity etc., etc. Whilst not feeling excluded I did feel my entry point different from many people and in hindsight some additional support would have been welcomed.

In his excellent article in the AA Winter Service News (Winter 2024) Dr Kieran Moriarty wrote about alcohol and older people and described it as a “silent epidemic”. From personal experience as a Regional Health Liaison Officer I now see this firsthand in many of the service activities I undertake and it would be good to see our Fellowship rise more specifically to the challenge of this “silent epidemic”.

Background

- GSB approved pamphlet - available via AAGB website shop - “AA For The Older Alcoholic - Never To Late”.
- Alcohol and Older People - A Silent Epidemic - AA Service News (Winter 2024) - Dr Kieran Moriarty (NA Trustee)

How Will the Alcoholic Who Still Suffers Benefit....

By making the Fellowship more accessible to older people we will make it easier for this growing segment of society to find the recovery they need and broaden the base and representation of our Fellowship in the future.

2. Would Conference consider and share their experience of how the Fellowship can improve its understanding and application of the 12 Concepts within Service?

Background

The Steps, Traditions and Concepts make up the 36 spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, but the Concepts are often overlooked.

AA GB Structure Handbook 2025/26:

- Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain & Continental Europe – Section 6.2 Twelve Concepts for Service;
- Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain & Continental Europe – Section 6.3 Bill W.’s essays on The Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Committee No. 4

1. Would the Fellowship discuss and share experience regarding how we might strengthen our practical application of Tradition One — “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity” — so that we maintain safety and unity within AA, and avoid the need to use the term “safeguarding” in our literature?

Background

When applied practically, Tradition One leads us to create safe, welcoming environments, in which the still-suffering alcoholic can recover.

In recent years, Conference discussion has given rise to literature being created by the Board and subsequently approved by Conference: it can be found in the Structure Handbook P115-123.

The General Service Board (as a charity) is required by law to hold a Safeguarding Policy.

Some members believe that the Fellowship itself should not be seen to adopt external policy frameworks, or use terms like ‘safeguarding’, as they may compromise AA’s Traditions.

If groups use this question to discuss their practice of common welfare, and share with Conference their conclusions and suggestions, then we will strengthen the daily, practical application of Tradition One - in meetings, service structures, sponsorship, and Fellowship life - so that AA continues to offer a safe and unified environment in which our primary purpose (Tradition Five) can be fulfilled.

- Tradition One (Short form and Long Form)
- Tradition Five

2. Would Conference share members experience of the safeguarding role at all levels of the service structure to inform a role description and sobriety length for the Service Handbook.

Background

Guidance would ensure those in Safeguarding roles are of maximum benefit/service in supporting the groups to adhere to healthy safeguarding practices in their meetings. This, in turn would enable the group to better carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, protect the newcomer, members and the fellowship as a whole.

AA Structure Handbook: Chapter 5 – The Group – Safeguarding and Personal Conduct

Committee No. 5

1. Would Conference consider the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Alcoholics Anonymous, and more specifically:

- How AI might assist the Fellowship in carrying out its primary purpose;**
- What risks AI may pose to AA, especially regarding anonymity, data privacy and automation;**
- Whether shared experience and/or guidance is needed to help ensure any use of AI remains in line with AA's Traditions and spiritual principles.**

Artificial Intelligence is advancing rapidly and becoming an integral part of everyday life, already influencing how people seek help, connect with others, create content, and access information. These developments may also affect how members and newcomers encounter AA, as well as how service is carried out within the Fellowship.

For example, AI is increasingly used in online search, automated translation, content generation and interactive chat tools—areas that could help make AA's message and services more widely accessible. At the same time, such technologies raise important concerns around anonymity, data privacy, and automation (i.e. no longer one alcoholic helping another).

It therefore seems timely for the Fellowship to consider AI's potential impact, both positive and negative, and to decide whether shared experience or guidance is needed to ensure its use remains in line with AA's Traditions and spiritual foundations.

2. Would Conference share its experience on the importance of the Greeter role at our meetings, and make recommendations for inclusion in the Structure Handbook.

Background

Most group level roles are detailed in the Structure Handbook but this vitally important role has been overlooked.

Committee No. 6

1. Could Conference explore and recommend safe ways for AA members in early sobriety to re-engage socially in light of the increasing presence of alcohol-free beers, wines, and spirits on the market?

Background

An old AA saying is that when Daniel escaped the lion's den with his head, he didn't go back for his hat! However, AA newcomers are faced with the difficulties of returning to social situations at work and with friends.

The opinion of established AA members can differ on these issues. Some feel that recovering alcoholics can drink alcohol-free drinks whereas others are of the opinion that this is wrong. Some members remark that 'non-alcoholic beer is for non-alcoholic people'.

AA Big Book references:

- These allergic types can never safely use alcohol in any form at all ('The Doctor's Opinion', p. xxvi)
- If tempted, we recoil from it (alcohol) as from a hot flame ('Into Action', p84)

2. Review revised Chapter 8 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain & Continental Europe – Probation/Criminal Justice Social Work Services (CJSWS)

Background

Revised Chapter 8 - Probation/Criminal Justice Social Work Services (CJSWS)

Link: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2026/>

Please consider the contribution each question has in carrying the message, together with any financial and practical implications.

Literature Items to be presented in plenary session:

- CSC Template for insertion to pamphlet '**General Service Conference**'
- New pamphlet: '**Membership Survey 2025**'
- New Pamphlet: '**More than Money**'
- Revised pamphlet: '**12 Steppers**'
- Revised pamphlet: '**A Message for Professionals**'
- Revised pamphlet: '**LGBTQIA+ VOICES IN AA**'
- Revised pamphlet: '**Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered**'
- Revised pamphlet: '**The AA Archives**'
- Revised pamphlet: '**The Pot**'

All literature items can be viewed at:

<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2026/>

First Response Online Sub Committee

Online Workshop

Sat 24th January 2026 at 10am - 12pm



If you are looking for new service where you can directly help the newcomer into Alcoholics Anonymous we invite you to join us to learn more about our 2 online first response services

Zoom Login: 880 3512 2429

Password: FROSC

To help us gauge how many will be attending please register by emailing: secretary.fro.sc@aamail.org



West Dorset workshops work wonders

How it started...

Last year [2024], I went to three wonderful workshops in the Poole Intergroup area, on the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions and Service. I was astonished at the support these received from Poole IG area members - they felt like one day mini conventions, with a fabulous atmosphere.

I made the mistake of mentioning to the organiser that it would be wonderful to have some workshops in my Intergroup area, which is West Dorset. "You should do it then" he replied. Weirdly, my sponsor said the same thing!

Cut to the beginning of 2025 and I was fast approaching the end of my service term as Treasurer for West Dorset Intergroup and moving from an Alternate to Full Delegate after the April Conference. This meant that I had the whole Summer with very little to do service-wise, and so space appeared for me to suggest the Workshops to my intergroup.

Next steps

I arranged to talk to Iain, who set up the Poole area workshops, and he kindly gave up his time to sponsor me into the role. He was very enthusiastic and generous with his experience. I did some research, found a suitable venue, did some costings and took my findings to my intergroup to ask them if they would support three workshops over the summer months.

West Dorset Intergroup were incredibly supportive of the idea and unanimously approved funding for the workshops. So, I set about asking for volunteers to help set up a committee.... and waited.

I went back to Iain, who suggested that as long as we had volunteers on the day to help with refreshments, I could probably just start asking people to share and book the venue, organise sound equipment, produce flyers, and give God room to provide.

Willing helpers

Luckily, there is always someone on hand with experience if I ask for specific help, as I have no idea about sound equipment, or designing flyers, so I asked Adam (who's in a band) to help me with the sound, and Lisa (who is a computer whizz) to help design the flyers, and I asked Marie (who is a fabulous baker) to make the cakes. Pretty soon we had flyers to share, and Adam and I had visited the venue to work out what equipment we needed.

The venue had a strict capacity, so I had to request seat reservations, and, of course, West Dorset Intergroup had first dibs on seats. With two weeks to go we were nowhere near capacity, so I sent invitations to Poole area and Bournemouth area for the first workshop which was on the 12 Steps, and it was standing room only! The attendance ignited interest in the next two planned workshops as word spread.

The shares were all fantastic, several people came forward to help with refreshments, and the day went perfectly. The 12 Traditions workshop had slightly fewer attendees, and the Service workshop was half capacity which, sadly, was no surprise. If you are thinking of putting on some workshops, I would suggest starting with the Steps and ending with Service.

West Dorset workshops

continued from p.17

Sharing experience

My report to my intergroup will therefore suggest that a quarterly workshop on the 12 Steps would probably be most beneficial moving forward.

I would recommend a format of six people who each share for about 20 minutes and talk about two steps each, with a break for refreshments and cake. If the workshop was held each quarter, we would catch the newcomers, and we could hold annual 12 Traditions and Service workshops.

I do hope West Dorset Intergroup finds someone willing to take on the role, as all who attended have expressed that they thoroughly enjoyed them. I will be happy to share my experience, but as I move into my new role this year as a Conference Delegate, I will be only available in a supporting role.

Money matters...

I asked my intergroup for a budget of £400 to fund three workshops and we collected Tradition 7 contributions at each one which were transferred to West Dorset Intergroup. This meant that the overall cost to my intergroup in the end was £278.21.

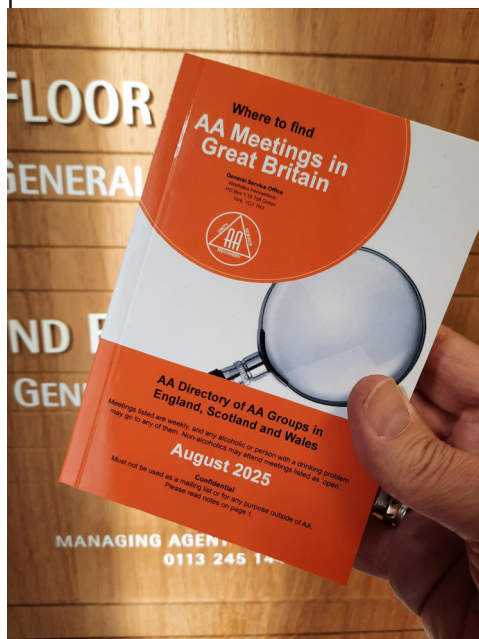
I am so grateful to Iain in Poole and to my sponsor, for 'nudging' me into this role. I have heard some spectacular shares, met lots of wonderful people from other areas, been inspired, been terrified, been overwhelmed, and mainly of course, I have been eternally grateful to all the wonderful people who came forward to do the jobs I simply do not have the skills to do. This has been an incredible experience of unity and service in action.

If you ever find yourself at a "loose end" service wise, I cannot recommend organising workshops highly enough.

Laura, West Dorset Intergroup

*Are you running a workshop for the first time?
Are you an experienced workshop organiser?
AA Service News would love to hear your stories
and will share any hints and tips that you have.*

New and in stock now! AA GB Where to Find directory



- ***Lists all meetings in England, Scotland and Wales***
- ***Meeting contact telephone numbers***
- ***Index of Towns***
- ***Telephone Service Offices & Helplines numbers***

Revised August 2025 / NOT available from the online shop.

Order by post enclosing cheque / PO or email carolinedavy@gsogb.org.uk and send an online bank transfer to the GSO account:

Account name: General Service Board
Sort code: 40-47-31
Account number: 63930408

£8 inc. p&p

A Regional Treasurer's Service Journey

Alistair J reflects on his AA journey, and some lessons learned along the way.

My own service journey started with washing up, a suitable place for a vaguely superior accountant who wasn't sure he belonged in AA. With the benefit of the steps, I knew I belonged and what to do about my condition. I also made it into service posts at Swansea intergroup and then the Welsh AA Convention. I was treasurer of this last one for a period and it taught me a lot.



After a service hiatus due to my wonderful son, a recovery blessing, I was back at group service but now over in Bristol. I have been group treasurer a few times since then and had the not so yummy delights of dealing with charity bank account(s). Money from groups is passed on to carry the message of recovery at intergroup and regional level, through primary purpose work. We support GSO by passing funds downwards (not up!) for their important work.

Recently I had to dig deep with persistent illness meaning a lot more online and less in person service attendance, but I kept walking the walk and was able to continue.

Now feeling largely recovered, I am so very grateful for the wisdom to 'keep on keeping on' in my recovery and I draw on my recovery bank when the going gets tough. That's what I heard from the old timers and my 'copy paste' to use it in my own recovery and life. Works a treat thus far!

I happen to be a qualified charity accountant by trade, so it has been an exercise in humility to be a treasurer among others without lived finance experience. We worked together, helping out with a WhatsApp group, and at York we met with the Honorary Treasurer and the GSO finance staff.

At the Regional Treasurers' meeting we share best practise (for 'dosh') from around the Fellowship. As a group, we work together for the greater good, sharing best practice, for example wisdom on the delights of charity bank accounts. We consider the prudent reserves held around the Fellowship and discuss examples of using money wisely to carry the message.

At the regional service level, we listen to what members are saying and my meetings with Intergroup Treasurers emphasise the importance of a 'clean line of sight' for Fellowship money and how it is used. *Transparency* and *accountability* are key words in modern charity finance, and this has been a yardstick of our approach. We have encouraged this and are delighted with the expert input of the new Honorary Treasurer as we benefit from considerable external wisdom.

I am really grateful to our wonderful Fellowship and it's amazing people.

Alistair J, South Midlands Regional Treasurer

Brighton Area Intergroup : Carrying the Message



In response to the Conference recommendation for greater sharing of successful primary purpose initiatives, here are some of the ways we carry our message in and around Brighton.

Health symposium

We recently ran an enthusiastically received symposium for 150 junior doctors to explain what AA does and how we work. We've run many poster and digital advertising campaigns around Brighton increasing awareness of our solution. The ambulance service and the police in Brighton distribute 'Here to Help' cards to those they encounter who look like they could use our assistance. We supply literature to the prison in Lewes and run an AA meeting there. We also run a meeting at the Royal Sussex County Hospital and visit the wards.

Brighton Convention

Brighton runs Europe's largest AA convention. Over 1400 members of the Fellowship joined us in January at the Metropole Hotel. One described it as 'the best £15 I've spent this year'. The 1,000 + meeting on Sunday morning is, like all AA meetings, free to attend. The 20 strong convention team work tirelessly throughout the year to develop and promote our convention. Our neuro-diverse meetings were a big hit this year and we've expanded their capacity for next year.

On-line advertising

Brighton Area Intergroup ran a successful online advertising campaign in 2024. Google searches for 'am I an alcoholic?' or 'how do I stop drinking?' were two of the many questions we answered with an opportunity for the still-suffering alcoholic to visit the newcomers' page of the AAGB website. Once there, they could find a meeting, call us, send us an email, have an online chat with us or read about AA, alcoholism and our solution.

The campaign was so successful that we expanded it to cover Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire through an initiative at South East Region. It ran until December 2024 when Google decided to stop all advertising on 'addiction services'.

Over 200,000 people saw our adverts and more than 34,000 were interested enough to click through to our website. We paid an average of 87p each time somebody visited our website. Several business people said they were envious of our 'click through rate': over 16% of the people who saw our ads were interested enough to click a link to our website.

Website and social media

Brighton immediately responded to Google's decision by designing a website with newcomers in mind: www.aaBrightonArea.com. We run Facebook and Instagram adverts to attract them to our site and to our meetings. We have an awareness campaign to carry our message and a website campaign to attract newcomers. Conference 2023 said 'funds are best spent on local initiatives at group, intergroup and regional levels' and that's our aim. It recommended 'making use of social media ad campaigns'. We can carry our message to 1,000 people for less than £6.

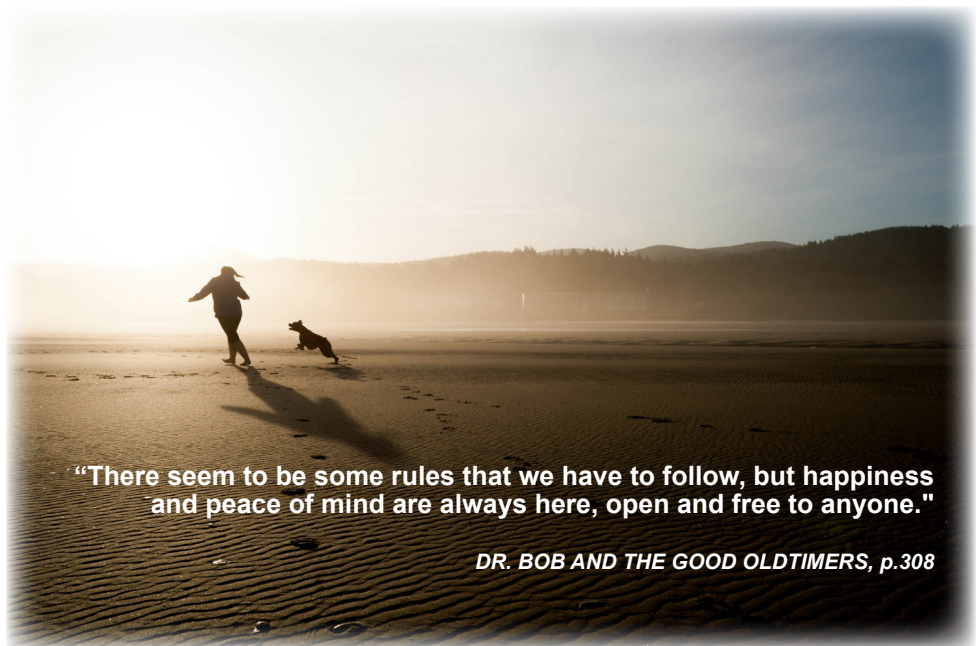
This all stays true to AA's primary purpose — to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic and help others towards sobriety.

Bill Wilson said: "Nothing matters more to AA's future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication". We believe he would be an enthusiastic supporter of our efforts, as he was always keen on publicising our Fellowship. In Tradition 11 he wrote: "...obviously AA had to be publicised" and went on to say: "Here was something rare in the world — a society which said it wished to publicise its principles and its work, but not its individual members". [*Twelve Steps & Traditions*, p182]

Our existing campaigns have been most successful with men and women aged 25 - 54. We're hoping to add TikTok to our campaigns next year to carry our message to younger alcoholics.

In Fellowship,

Alan M, Brighton Area Intergroup Treasurer



"There seem to be some rules that we have to follow, but happiness and peace of mind are always here, open and free to anyone."

DR. BOB AND THE GOOD OLDTIMERS, p.308

The following members are joining sub committees:

- Helen Y, South East Region - Employment
- Simon P, South Midlands Region - National Telephones
- Jemma E, Scotia Region - Literature

The following members are joining the General Service Board as Trustees:

- Pragnya G – South Midlands Region
- Billy D – London Region North
- Matthew S – Continental European Region
- William T – South West Scotland Region

Deadlines for articles in AA service news: Spring Edition – 25th January 2026

Scheduled Forums South East Region: 23rd November 2025

European Service Meeting Fund: £19k paid into WSM Oct 2023 - £95k balance

World Service Meeting: Portugal to Host in 2026 – Reserve Host India

Sub Saharan African Service Meeting:

Cancelled – officially. Talks with Kenyan Intergroup re: online East African Service Workshop in November 2025 and potential for November 2026 East African Service Meeting in person in East Africa. We have now had several workshops with Keynan Intergroup helping them develop their ideas on how they can grow

Development Fund:

£25,659 paid in; £50k paid out to WSM in Oct 2024 - £56k balance

National Conventions:

- Northern National Convention 26–29 March 2026 <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/events/nnc-northern-national-convention-2026/>
- Scottish National Convention 24–26 April 2026 <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/events/scottish-national-convention/>

SAVE the DATE :

Armed Services Subcommittee Service Workshop - Saturday 28 February 2026 (details to be confirmed)

The workshop is to encourage people into ASLO service and discuss planning for Armed Forces Day, 27 June 2026.

LET POINTS

on 12th and 13th September 2025

Probation and Community Justice

We are actively looking for anyone with experience of the chit system and CJS / Probation to share their experience with us to increase the number of stories we have. Please send stories to aainformation@gsogb.org.uk

Intergroup and Region reports remain sparse - please could regions forward their reports to aainformation@gsogb.org.uk

Survey

The 2025 Survey has been a resounding success with more participation than ever before. The results of the survey will be published as soon as the compilation has been completed.

Finance Report

The Quarter 3 Finance Report went out earlier than usual this year, following a request from Regional Treasurers for it to coincide with regional meetings. As a result, it went out without full Board scrutiny. In the future, it will be sent out after the July Board meeting, as previously.

Risk Register

In response to advice from the auditors, a risk register has now been formulated for the charity (The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous GB). It reflects identified risk impacts on the charity and is a live document. The register will be discussed and updated at every Board meeting

Safeguarding Conference Request

In response to the recommendation of Committee 4, Question 1 at Conference 2025, the link in Chapter 5, of the Structure Handbook has been amended to reference the Safeguarding Guidance for the Fellowship instead of the Safeguarding Policy that is required for the General Service Board. New printed versions of the handbooks will be available soon. The Committee also asked the Board to review the wording of the Safeguarding Guidance. The GSB Safeguarding Committee looked at the guidance and concluded that there was no need for change. The document clearly reflects what was requested when the Board conferred with the Regions.

Board Proposals at Conference

Following concerns of the timing of the Board proposal regarding the creation of podcasts by subcommittees, in future the Board will be putting any such proposal to the Fellowship at the same time as any proposed literature, ahead of Conference.

Gretchen S , Vice Chair – General Service Board

GSB Vacancies

GSB Vacancies - Service on a Sub Committee

Rotation creates the opportunity for new members to join a General Service Board (GSB) Sub Committee (SC). The primary purpose of a SC is to deliver Conference recommendations.

If you have experience at intergroup and region and are 5 years+ sober, then we would welcome your application.

All sub committee members go through an application and interview process. Current vacancies are listed quarterly here in AA Service News, together with a deadline for submission for application, and the criteria which you will need to meet as part of your application.

General requirements

- Understand the relationship between the GSB and a SC
- 5 years+ continuous sobriety
- Good knowledge and application of the 12 Steps / 12 Traditions
- An understanding of the AA structure
- Ability to 'carry the message' to audiences outside of AA
- Work with outside organisations
- Create and encourage open communication channels at intergroup and regional levels
- Work collectively as a team
- Ability to assist in delivering relevant Conference recommendations

Additional benefits

- Have worked in a complimentary discipline to the one being applied for
- Understanding / application of the 12 Concepts for service
- A degree of confidence in establishing relationships to local, regional or national bodies outside of the Fellowship
- Conference experience

Successful candidates would be expected to attend four meetings a year; usually two in York and two online. The term of service is usually 4 years.

How to apply

When applying for any of the sub committee vacancies below, please obtain an up-to-date application form from either **Jenny Pryke** at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ: 01904 644026; jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk or from the Document Library (select 'Forms') at the AAGB website www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk.

Your application must be endorsed with a covering letter from a currently serving officer of your intergroup or region. Your application and covering letter will need to be sent to Jenny Pryke at GSO by the application deadline.

Applicants will be interviewed online by two GSB members of the Nominations Committee. The next deadline for applications to join a sub committee is **12th December 2025**.

For any application, we would suggest you contact the Trustee responsible for the SC you are interested in working for. All vacancies are listed below together with relevant Trustee contact details.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Current Sub Committee Vacancies

- **Archives**
Email John C on: trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Armed Services**
Email John C on trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **First Response Online**
Email Holly A on: trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Literature**
Email Max J on: trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **National Telephones**
Email Levey P on: trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk
- **Public Information & EComms**
Email Tim B on: trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Probation/Community Justice**
Email Hamish McS on: trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Roundabout - vacancy for Assistant Editor**
Email Cath, the Editor of Roundabout, on: roundabout@aamail.org
- **Survey**
Email Max J on: trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Young People**
Email Holly A on: trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk



Dear Fellowship...

Ranjan B indulges in some straightforward plain speaking

Some discussion about the publication of the **Plain Language Big Book** hovers over how Bill's words aren't to be touched, for fear of changing the message. Such fears make the Big Book a fetish, an object of veneration. The Big Book is the medium that conveys the message guiding towards a higher power and sobriety one day at a time. A fetish seeks recovery via ritual and recitation, and in itself is not the Higher Power. The Bible has changed over 2,000 years, if only from Greek to Latin, but no one could credibly say that there is but one version that is the unequivocal word of God.

It is our message that when one alcoholic talks to another they will gain release from the cravings to drink and create a contact with something greater. The Big Book was the first in our magnificent library to carry this message, the Plain Language version is the latest. If as a fellowship, we wish to keep carrying our message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic, whose presence we need to stay alive, we need to adapt our media to keep them coming.

The Plain Language Big Book, like our other best loved books, is plainly a work of love having taken 8 years of hard work to complete. Since publication in November 2024, AA World Service has sold over 150,000 copies and AAGB has sold over 7,000 since January 2025. Its presence continues to show that not only does AA offers a program of change, that says you need not drink again, but that the Fellowship itself is ever changing to meet and greet the newcomer.

Similarly, to ensure there is always a newcomer, the Fellowship as a whole must spend time, effort and money to carry this message outside of the rooms of AA into the world. The alcoholic is anonymous, not invisible, and the Fellowship must be visible, tangible and understandable so that any alcoholic, whatever their background and capacity, can find us and be attracted to what we offer. Therefore, as a Fellowship and as a Board we must invest in the future.

In 2007 the Board expenditure was £1,539k and Income was £1,327k which translates as roughly £3m today. In 2023/4 expenditure was £2m (or £1m less). This shows not merely prudence and/or efficiency gains (although it is both), but investment opportunities spurned that over time, sees a dwindling return i.e. the newcomer.

This is part of the background to the GSO appeal for funds from the Fellowship. It is to ensure not only that we have the reserves for our core costs, but also to spend more money – invest – in carrying the message of recovery to more alcoholics so that more and more newcomers walk through our doors. A lack of investment means fewer newcomers, fewer pounds in the pot, fewer members in service and so fewer resources attracting the newcomer, compounding over time to gradual dissolution and death.

On the other hand, more investment leads to more newcomers, more pounds in the pot, more members in service and more newcomers with a new way of life, compounded over time. The more we invest, the more we reap.

See you somewhere on the Road...

*In fellowship,
Ranjan B, General Secretary*

A.A.

Alcoholics Anonymous GB and English-Speaking Continental Europe

THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL

Northern National Convention

AA with AI-Anon Participation

To be held at the Norbreck Castle Hotel,
Blackpool, FY2 9AA



“A New Beginning”

26th - 29th March 2026

www.aa-gb.org.uk/i/northern-national-convention/



West Riding intergroup explain how they set out their stall at the Leeds University 'Freshers Week'

Back in March 2025, a fellow and I attended the Leeds employment fair, and while were there, we spoke to some of the student liaison officers who invited us to come to their fresher's week.

So, on the 24th of September 2025 we headed over to set up our stall at the event, which was attended by 2000 students aged between 16 and 18 years old, along with existing older students and, of course, all the staff who attend the college.

There were also many other stalls there including a gambling addiction stall, the Army services, a local church, and a few large employers. However, we were the only organisation who were there to help people suffering with alcoholism.

We had many students approach asking what we do, with most stating that they are abstinent from alcohol. According to the student officers, there are people with alcohol problems at the college, and that due to it being a mainly Muslim community there is a lot of shame around alcohol/drug use so it is not necessarily widely discussed and this is why they asked for us to attend.

We had some lovely conversations with students, teachers and stallholders with many flyers being taken and even a newcomer pack. Teachers were taking flyers and said they were going to put them in the staff communal areas.

Hopefully, someone somewhere will remember seeing AA that day, either because they need the Fellowship themselves, or because they know someone who is struggling with alcoholism.

We have also been asked to go and do some drop-in sessions in November and January on a more one-to-one scale which we intend to do, and I will liaise with the Young People's groups about this also as they may find more identification.

It was a fantastic day, and we sowed the AA seed for the younger generation.

*Tina, Employment Liaison Officer
West Riding Intergroup*



SURVEY 2025

The Survey sub-committee is reviewing the responses from the 2025 survey. The data is being analysed, and the full report will be published on our website as soon as work is complete.

In parallel, a leaflet outlining the key findings is being prepared and will be submitted to Conference 2026 for approval.

We appreciate the contributions of all participants and will provide further updates in due course.



Co-operation with Probation Services throughout our Structure

The Probation and Community Justice Subcommittee was pleased to be approached by the Probation Service with a request to identify a member who could share their positive experience of working with Probation while also engaging with Alcoholics Anonymous. The goal was to feature this story on the Probation Service's internal website to help raise awareness of the positive impact AA can have on individuals on probation.

We were delighted that John agreed to be interviewed by HMPPS for this purpose. Below is an edited, anonymised version of his interview.

John's experience coming into Alcoholics Anonymous with Probation Service support

John first got in trouble with the law when he was just five years old, but following support from Probation and Alcoholics Anonymous he has enrolled in adult education, and is looking forward to a new future.

John successfully completed a 30-month Community Order in November 2023, which he received for Assault by Beating, and Criminal Damage, following a domestic dispute.

John got into trouble for breaking into garages when he was five. He struggled at school. John's mum left when he was a teenager. He received the first of many prison sentences at 17, for Grievous Bodily Harm after a violent attack in a pub fight.

It wasn't until later in life John realised many of his problems stemmed from alcohol. He said: "Whenever I experienced confrontation or a loss of control I'd erupt into anger.

"I've come to realise it was fear that lay behind so many of my responses.

"I was fearful that I wasn't clever enough or smart enough or good enough, and my response to that was to be cocky and arrogant. Drink covered all that up." John continued: "Whenever I started drinking, I'd almost always drink until I blacked out."

"Probation was just another authority figure that I dealt with because I had to. Nothing sank in."

Finding AA

Now a father of three, John was introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) by a mutual friend after another run-in with the law involving drink and drugs and aggressive behaviour during a domestic dispute. AA is free to attend and has no waiting list.

He said: "I met these two guys who had been sober for years. What they said made so much sense, and the first AA meeting I went to was a revelation. Up until then, my whole social environment consisted of people who took drink and drugs to cope pretty much every day. That was my 'normal.'

"People were talking about their fears. And the penny finally dropped for me. I'd always felt different and isolated, but here I felt understood." John stopped drinking on August 12, 2022.

John also began to respond positively to probation, both by engaging in the offending behaviour programme Building Better Relationships (BBR), and forming bonds with his probation officers. He said: "I had a fantastic BBR facilitator. He really understood where I was coming from, and I trusted him. He didn't judge me but listened to me."

Family Court and the Probation Officer

When he attended family court, John told the judge that he wanted to get better before attempting to vary custody rights. He said: "I realised I needed to be more at peace with who I was and the things I've done. It's tough because I miss my son, but this situation is a result of things I've done."

Sam is the probation officer who supervised, and John said: "Sam is absolutely fantastic. She stood up to me when I was resistant, but then when she could see that I was trying, she came along to an AA meeting in her own time to learn more about my world and how alcoholics function."

"I find it hard putting into words what that meant to me. Sam moved me by her compassion and her honesty. I feel absolute respect for Sam. I could see she wasn't doing this job for the pay, but she could also see that – day by day – I am trying to be a better person."

Embracing support

Sam praised John for the progress he has made, which she said began in earnest after he was convicted for drink driving during his order. She added: "From that point John realised he had to stop drinking and he embraced all the support we offered, did really well at BBR and also re-engaged with AA."

"The change in him is massive. He knew it was his responsibility to address his anger and trauma, and to his immense credit he has done exactly that."

AA hosts open meetings to raise awareness about their approach.

Sam said: "I don't have lived experience of addiction, so I felt I owed it to the people I supervise to attend an open AA meeting. I really do feel every probation officer should do their best to go, it helped me to understand what AA does and the strong sense of community which it creates."

John said: "I think most people on probation have an 'ism' of some kind, mine is alcoholism."

"Learning more about these conditions is in everybody's interest, and ultimately will help colleagues know whether or not to refer people to places like AA."

Biggest fear

John faced his biggest fear in 2022 after re-enrolling at school and has since completed his Level 2 maths and hopes to soon complete his English Level 2 before starting an Open University degree. He added: "Stopping drinking is only the first step in recovery; educating ourselves, developing our consciousness and finding emotional sobriety is what recovery is all about today."

Co-operation with Probation Services *continued*

We'd love to hear from Alcoholics Anonymous members who have worked with Probation Services while under supervision. If you'd like to share how that experience has supported your recovery, please get in touch.

Contact the Probation and Community Justice Subcommittee at:

infoprobatation.sc@aamail.org

Hamish McS

Trustee - Probation/Community Justice Subcommittee

Conference 2025 / 26 Tracker

Committee / Question	Recommendation	Responsibility	
C1 / Q1	Cross Sharing statement in Structure Handbook	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition - Done</i>
C1 / Q2	Groups directed to specific Literature	Fellowship	
C1 / Q3	Service Handbook Executive Summary	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition - Done</i>
C1 / Q4	Service Handbook: Chapter 10	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition - Done</i>
C2 / Q1	Make guidelines of inclusivity clear	GSO	<i>Change to website and new edition Structure Handbook - Done</i>
C2 / Q2	Definitions of open and closed to be harmonised		<i>Change to website and new edition Structure Handbook - Done</i>
C2 / Q3	Service Handbook Introduction	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition - Done</i>
C2 / Q4	Service Handbook: Chapter 6	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition - Done</i>

Committee / Question	Recommendation	Responsibility	
C3 / Q1	Highlight PLBB and more awareness at all levels	GSO, Fellowship	<i>Change to website - Done</i>
C3 / Q2	No change to recommended lengths		
C3 / Q3	Service Handbook Appendix	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition – Done</i>
C3 / Q4	Service Handbook Chapter 13	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition – Done</i>
C4/ Q1	Structure Handbook Safeguarding guidance	GSB	<i>Amend Chapter 5, Review board policy - Done</i>
C4 / Q2	Sponsorship pamphlet	GSO	<i>Change on new printings - Done</i>
C4 / Q3	Service handbook Chapter 3	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition – Done</i>
C4 / Q4	Structure Handbook p162	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition – Done</i>
C5 / Q1	Men's Video	GSB	<i>Board to report back to Conference 2026 on viability and cost - Ongoing</i>
C5 / Q2	Pink Form	GSO, GSB	<i>Consistent use of new term Group Information; QR code on new literature. Digital and print How to guide. Report back to conference 2026 - Ongoing</i>
C5 / Q3	Service handbook: Appendix X	GSO	<i>Change to website and printing of new edition – Done</i>
C6 / Q1	Social Media Platform	GSB	<i>To produce guide on its use; to launch GSB platform.</i>
C6 / Q2	Service Handbook Chapter 1	GSO	<i>Change on website and printing of new edition - Done</i>
New literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Brief Guide to AA • AA and Mental Health • AA Service in Prison (revised) • Alcoholics Anonymous as a Resource for Employers • Welsh Posters x 2 	GSO	<i>All done and available.</i> <i>Posters on website shop.</i>

Tradition 7

“Every AA group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions”

Tradition 7 Regional Contributions July - September 2025	Contributions £
Some of these contributions come from regional assemblies, whilst others may come from individual members or groups	
Eastern Region	24,915
London Region North	78,929
London Region South	21,025
Midlands Region	16,794
North East Region	13,144
North West Region	2,291
South East Region	26,667
South Midlands Region	10,966
South West Region	20,367
Wales & Borders Region	1,368
East of Scotland Region	2,908
GLasgow Region	44,490
Highlands & Islands Region	9,849
Scotia Region	19,220
South West Scotland Region	11,785
Continental European	4,706
Sundry- Unidentifiable receipts	2,337
Total	311,763

There were no In Memoriam donations received this quarter

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for the next **AA Southern**
National Convention



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Contact SNCC - convener.southernnc@aamail.org
Or chair.southernnc@aamail.org

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For your printed copy, update the group 'Pink Form' or contact Sharon at GSO sharon.smyth@gsogb.org.uk Alternatively, complete the below and send to the address provided.

Printed AA Service News is mailed in a plain envelope.

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Address:

Postcode:

Email to:

AA Service News, GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ

*GSO reference for each AA group - register with GSO by filling in the group registration, or 'pink' form