



October 2020

Al-Anon Family Groups UK & Eire
57B Great Suffolk St
London SE1 0BB
Office: 020 7593 2070

INFORMATION LETTER No: 74

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES: THIS LETTER GIVES MEMBERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK YOUR TRUSTED SERVANTS ON THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD DO ON THEIR BEHALF. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT IN FULL AND SHARE WITH YOUR GROUPS.

Dear Members

I would like to update you with what happened at the most recent General Service Board (GSB) meeting held virtually on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September 2020. All Trustees were in attendance. Carol Ashcroft, Regional Trustee, England North & North Wales has sadly resigned. The Trustees expressed their gratitude for her service and wished her well for the future.

This letter and other information will be circulated directly to the Area Delegates and to members who have signed up for the free GSO eNewsletter. Simply visit the Al-Anon website www.al-anonuk.org.uk and sign up to the GSO eNewsletter via the members' area.

None of the Trustees would have thought that the pandemic would still be impacting our lives for over six months. The Regional Trustees have been working hard to continue to offer their support to the Area Delegates with virtual meetings held to go through information normally presented at Conference. Information was sent to Delegates who were encouraged to send in questions to GSO for response by an appropriate Trustee. The Trustees at Large continue to hold regular virtual committee meetings to ensure the work of the Board continues and members are kept up to date with information via the intranet and the GSO eNewsletters. The Chairman thanked all Trustees for their hard work during this difficult time.

Finances The Board received the Treasurer's Interim Report and reviewed management accounts for the first quarter of the 2020-21 financial year. The Treasurer is pleased to report that the members are donating, as requested, to the General Fund with those gift aiding donations where possible. She asks that members keep in mind that despite the temporary closure of the General Service Office their donations are still required to cover the running costs of the office.

The Treasurer presented an amended budget for the year 2020-21 and the projected budget for the year 2021-22. These were reviewed and agreed by the Trustees and will be circulated to all Delegates via the intranet as part of a Conference pack. The Delegates will have the opportunity to review the budgets and to put forward any questions they may have following their Area Assemblies. The questions will be responded to as soon as is possible.

Public Information (PI) The Chairman of the PI Committee reported that a new PI Campaign will be launched in January 2021. The theme of the campaign will be #TheHiddenEffects – of alcoholism on family and friends. Details will be sent to all Area Delegates and PI Co-ordinators in October 2020.

GSO

Helpline - The duration of calls to the Helpline has increased during the pandemic resulting in higher phone costs. It was agreed to allow members who only have access to mobiles phones to volunteer on the Helpline.

Literature - New literature UK123 *Information for Professionals* and UK124/UK125 *The Hidden Effects* A5/A4 posters have been produced for the new PI Campaign and will be available on the shop soon.

UK Guidelines All UK Guidelines are in the process of being amended, where appropriate, and set out in a new agreed format. These will be on the website <https://www.al-anonuk.org.uk/uk-and-eire-guidelines/> as they become available. There are three new Guidelines UKG20 Expenses in Service, UKG21 Creating a Budget and UKG22 Safety in Al-Anon Meetings.

International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) The meeting was originally scheduled to take place in London from 7th to 10th October 2020. Discussions will now be held virtually from 4th to 10th October. The theme for the 2020 IAGSM is Practising Universal Principles with 20/20 Vision.

Electronic Meetings Temporary electronic meetings set up in place of a registered face to face meeting, held on the same day and time, can have their details on the website as part of the Group information.

Eire The Regional Trustee for Eire gave an updated report on the Irish company Al-Anon Family Groups Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). The application for charitable status has been sent to the Charity Regulator in Ireland and the process will take up to six months.

Trustee Vacancies: The following vacancies will be coming up in 2022

- Regional Trustee, Eire (two-year term)
- Regional Trustee, England West & South Wales (three-year term)
- Regional Trustee, England North & North Wales (two-year term)
- Regional Trustee, England South & East (one-year term)
- Regional Trustee, Ireland North (three-year term)
- Chairman, Public Information Committee (two-year term)
- Treasurer (two-year term)
- Chairman, Executive Committee (three-year term)

The Board expressed their thanks to all the staff at GSO for their hard work in keeping the services available whilst mostly working from home. We would also like to thank all our volunteers for their consistent service at this very difficult time.

Yours in fellowship

Nuala Carroll
Chairman
General Service Board