



January 2023

Al-Anon Family Groups UK & Eire  
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**INFORMATION LETTER No: 81**

**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, SO PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT IN FULL TO YOUR GROUPS.**

Dear Members

I would like to update you with what happened at the most recent General Service Board (GSB) meeting held at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th January 2023. Two new Regional Trustees were warmly welcomed to the GSB. The new Regional Trustee for Scotland was unable to attend and the new Chairperson of the GSB is sadly unable to take up her role. I therefore chaired the meeting.

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](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk) and sign up to the GSO eNewsletter via the members' area.

The GSB approved the appointment of Karen Murdoch as Chairperson of the Board, effective immediately following the January GSB meeting for a one-year period.

**Reports** Interim Reports from the Standing Committee Chairpersons (Conference and TEAM Events Committee), Chairperson of the Executive Committee and the Regional Trustees were received discussed and approved.

**Finances** The Board received the Treasurer's Interim Report and reviewed management accounts for the third quarter of the 2022-23 financial year. The Treasurer reported that although donations were a little down, income and expenditure remained on budget. She noted that literature sales seemed to be picking up and that more members were now Gift-Aiding their donations.

**Public Information (PI)** Members are requested to send shares for the new campaign *Are you Troubled by Someone's Drinking?* to [pi@al-anonuk.org.uk](mailto:pi@al-anonuk.org.uk). Share templates are available on the website. Members are needed to join the PI Committee. Email [pi@al-anonuk.org.uk](mailto:pi@al-anonuk.org.uk) for information.

**Eire** Al-Anon Family Groups Company Limited by Guarantee is now registered as a relevant organisation for Garda Vetting purposes. The Designated Liaison Person requires vetting and documents are to be approved by the Board of Al-Anon Family Groups CLG before we are able to start the process of reintroducing Alateen in Eire.

**Conference** The Chairperson of Conference took the Board through the evaluation forms completed by the Conference Delegates. The reviews were positive. The UK & Eire Service Conference 2023 will be held from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September at a new venue. The Conference theme will be 'Carrying The Message' and the theme of the workshops will be 'Time for PI'. The equalised fee was set at £576 per Area. More information will be sent to all Delegates in due course.

**Editorial** A Chairperson was appointed and members are needed to form a Committee. Email [enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk) for information.

Al-Anon • Alateen  
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**Online Al-Anon Meetings Working Party** The Working Party continues to meet to produce documents in preparation for registering online Al-Anon meetings in the UK & Eire Structure. Information will be sent to the fellowship in due course.

**Young people in Al-Anon** In line with all other organisations in the UK & Eire we are required to consider our responsibilities towards children and other vulnerable groups. Following advice from our Safeguarding Officer, our UK solicitors, Human Resources Background Checks (HRBC), feedback from the Alateen Committee and Conference 2022, the Board discussed the risks posed if young people attend Al-Anon meetings. To ensure the safety of young people, members and the Al-Anon reputation, it was agreed that the minimum age requirement for attending an Al-Anon meeting be 18 years.

**Service Roles** An application from a member for the Executive Committee was approved.

**Trustee Vacancies** The following are a list of the vacancies for January 2024.

- Regional Trustee, England North & North Wales (three-year term)
- Regional Trustee, Ireland South, South East & South Midlands (three-year term)
- Chairperson, Public Information Committee (three-year term)
- Chairperson, Editorial Committee (two-year term)
- Treasurer (three-year term)

The closing date for receipt of applications at GSO for all the above is 14th May 2023.

Yours in fellowship

*Liz Pritchard*

Liz Pritchard  
Vice Chairperson  
General Service Board