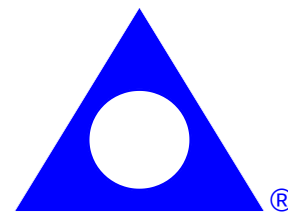


March 2024

**Al-Anon
Family
Groups**



Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

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

INFORMATION LETTER NO: 84

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES: THIS LETTER GIVES MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY YOUR TRUSTED SERVANTS ON THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD. PLEASE TAKE 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 Hinsley Hall, Leeds on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th of February 2024. New Regional Trustees were welcomed to the Board and the Regional Trustee for Ireland West, North East & North, sent his apologies.

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

Reports: Interim reports from the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees (Conference, TEAM Events, GSBNC and PI), Chairpersons of the GSB and Executive Committee, General Secretary, IAGSM Delegate and Regional Trustees were received, discussed, and approved.

Finances: The Board welcomed the new Treasurer who presented her predecessors' Interim Report and the management accounts for the third quarter for 2023/24. She reported that donations and expenditure remain on budget.

Conference: The Chairperson of the Conference Committee took the Board through the evaluation forms completed by the Conference Delegates. Reviews of the new venue and format of Conference were positive with excellent suggestions for next year. The UK & Eire Conference 2024 will be held from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September at Hillscourt Hotel, Birmingham. The Conference theme will be 'If it is to be, it is up to me' and the theme for the workshops will be 'Inspiring through Service Sponsorship'. The equalised fee was set at £585 per Area. More information will be sent to Delegates in due course.

Eire: Members are encouraged to register with AddressPal via An Post. This avoids delays as parcels go through customs and reduces parcel returns and damaged stock.

Public Information: The campaign 'Are You Troubled by Someone's Drinking' continues this year and members are encouraged to keep sending in their completed templates, which are available to download from the website.

Editorial: The Editorial Committee thanked Group Representatives for their continued enthusiasm in fulfilling their role as local representatives of *Al-Anon Today* by encouraging members at Group, Area and District meetings to submit shares. Members are warmly invited to send in shares to www.al-anonuk.org.uk/share/

The spring issue of [Al-Anon Today \(e-zine\)](#) will celebrate ten years since the first publication was launched on

the Al-Anon website.

Helpline: UK and Eire members are needed to come forward for this incredibly important service role to maintain the hours we can offer both helplines. If you have been a member for two years and are not living with active alcoholism, you can be trained to be a telephone or email responder. Regular and occasional time slots are available.

Alateen: The Safeguarding Policy was updated and is now available to download from the front page of the Website.

A discussion was held on the development of Alateen and how Areas can be supported to start Alateen Groups should they wish. GSO has a dedicated member of staff available to support Areas through the process.

Minimum Age Requirement to attend Al-Anon Meetings:

The Board has received several complaints regarding the decision to introduce a minimum age requirement to attend Al-Anon meetings. These were read and discussed during the Board meeting. The Chair will respond to these complaints on behalf of the Board.

Service Roles: Applications to join the PI Committee and Conference Committee were both approved.

Trustee Vacancies: The following is a list of vacancies for January 2025, the closing date for all applications should be received by 14th May 2024.

- Regional Trustee, England West and South West
- Chairperson, Executive Committee
- Regional Trustee, Ireland West, North East & North Midlands

Yours in fellowship

Angela Lidster

Chairperson
General Service Board