

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS



CoDA UK – National Service Committee (NSC) - Minutes February 3rd 2018 1.00pm to 4.00pm Waterloo Action Centre

Present:

Tony - NSC Chair & Inter Group Service Rep North, North West, Wales and Regions
Ray - GSR Guildford Men's Meeting
Don - NSC member and minute taker
Ian - NSC Treasurer and Literature Committee
Bruno - GSR Chiswick

Apologies:

Joel - NSC Member – News and Events

Welcome & Opening:

Tony opened the meeting and attending members read the welcome, steps and traditions and guidelines for sharing. The NSC meeting format was not available and Don offered to see if a copy could be obtained for the next meeting.

ACTION: Don to see if he can get a copy of the NSC meeting format for next meeting

Approval of minutes and actions arising:

Tony thanked Don for the minutes of November's NSC and these were approved and to be uploaded on the website.

ACTION: Minutes of November NSC to be uploaded to website

A.o.B Items:

The following were requested to be added/allocated time in the agenda for discussion:

- IT & Communications
- Treasurer hand over.

Report from Meetings and Regions:

North, North West, Wales and Regions Region:

Tony reported that this region currently covers a geography from Liverpool on the West to Middleborough on the East. There are currently five meetings in Manchester, 1 in Liverpool, 1 in Warrington, 1 in Darwin, Sheffield Farsi Meeting, and Bradford. Tony also mentioned that he had reached out to Scotland where there are meetings in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness.

A meeting of the region was held on the last Saturday of January and two big items were discussed, namely:

1. Disclosure of sexual abuse obligations
2. Ken and Mary visit and workshop.

Tony reported that three women had driven from North Lincolnshire to Manchester and were looking to set up a new meeting.

London and South East Region (LSER):

Ray reported that there are currently only two service positions filled at LSER. Ray holding the Secretary role and Matt H the Treasurer.

He reported that the meeting programme and scheduling was confused with every 2 months at Hind Street and every 3 months in Waterloo after the sponsorship workshop.

Agreed dates exist for both, but a decision is yet to be made on rationalisation going forward.

He reported that 8-10 members typically attend LSER (almost all GSR's) but there is no consistent and regular attendance and some concerns have been expressed over the confused meeting scheduling.

Funding to support the Ken and Mary (K&M) upfront costs has been covered and hopefully will be recovered through attendance.

Salisbury Retreat – 16th -18th February

Ray informed the meeting that the mixed retreat in Salisbury is booked for the 16th – 18th of February 2018 was virtually “sold out” with members able to resister on a waiting list for cancellations. There were still some vacancies in “twin bed” rooms.

Chiswick Meeting:

Bruno gave an overview and update from the Chiswick meeting. He reported that until 2016 they had met for a few years at the Quaker House in Hammersmith. They were now meeting in Turnham Green and have grown from a small meeting with 3-4 attendees to around 15-16 members.

He reported that they have introduced a reading on “Service” at every week 5 meeting as they are looking to fill service positions.

Ian fed back on the Haslemere Women’s meeting which he reported had a thriving attendance and a GSR.

Reports from service positions/committees:

Ian – Treasurer:

Ian reported that he had not been able to access the CoDA UK account and been unable to reset the password. He informed the NSC, that he was hoping to open a new account as the Guildford meeting were looking to make a donation.

Ray mentioned that Su had provided log in details and suggested the password change and that Frank was the only one with Su’s direct contact details.

Don suggested that we regain access to the existing bank account to provide continuity and access to account history before considering opening a new account.

Tony raised concerns that was the circa £7K in the current back account at risk and that he emails Su for access details.

Ray proposed that Ian establish a temporary account so that we can continue and have some immediate liquidity from the Guildford donation. The existing account needs to be handed over, and new signatories set up.

Action: This was voted and approved

Literature:

Ian reported that the draft contract for the extended term has been issued to Polwarth and includes additional clauses around the repayment of the £4,000 start-up cost contribution made by CoDA UK.

Ian said that he has a good relationship with the publishers and believes they do intend to pay back the investment and have proposed a phased repayment.

Ian proposed that should the £4K be repaid to CoDA UK it is sent to CoDA US as he believes it would simplify the contract

Ray did not support Ian's proposal and felt the £4K should be paid back to CoDA UK.

Don asked if CoDA UK need to approve the signing of the new contract.

Ian reported that Polwarth had offered to pay back £500 per quarter and they will look to get this included in the contract.

Ray proposed that we leave it with Ian to secure the best deal for the repayment.

IT & Communications:

Ray reported that a member Neil, had undertaken to port the current website to WordPress. Amma is webmaster for the existing website and is happy to manage this and take over the WordPress revision.

He proposed that we consider a commercial hosting service going forward, and suggested that we need to reach a decision on our chosen/recommended platform. He mentioned a couple of members with IT skills and knowledge that may be able to help.

Ray proposed that he pulls together an IT discussion group and to get existing service providers together and develop a proposal for the future of the website.

Action: This is proposed, voted and approved

Ray continued by saying that he had an action from LSER to refresh contact with meetings of which there about 60. He has about 25 GSR contacts.

He was going to initially make contact via text and provide the LSER contact email address for feedback, and request a contact email address for those responding.

Bruno suggested that contact details are often not expanded to include email and Ray suggested taking the request to their meetings.

Ray also suggested that CoDA UK email contacts be added and that a payment service be considered similar to the one used for the retreat.

Ian expressed his frustration in not getting hold of "Pancentric" domain owners and that we need to do this as they originally managed domain and are not being paid.

Don read out the updates on the mailboxes reviewed and managed by Joel.

Ray suggested that Tony look into sending Amma an outline as to what he wants for the North and North West Regions .

Discussions items on the Agenda

1) Disclosure of Sexual Abuse:

Tony began by reporting that in another fellowship a member shared under the anonymity of the meeting that a family member had been abusing their children, and afterwards an attending member called the police and they were arrested and imprisoned. The member who shared in the meeting was not happy that anonymity had been broken and it had been disclosed. Tony asked if wording should be included in meetings around disclosure of sexual abuse and if the NSC would discuss.

Ian reported that disclosure of sexual abuse and risk of harm needs to be disclosed.

Ray mentioned that many church's have safe guiding policies but may not be connected and directly relevant

Bruno suggested that we should ask the fellowship for guidance/ feedback and Don suggested that we request guidance/clarification on the legal position regarding disclosure of abuse/harm if raised in a member share.

Action: It was agreed to seek clarification of the legal position and review again at the next NSC meeting

Ken and Mary Workshops :

Tony reported that the K&M organising committee met at the end of December and sought clarity on funding and assistance with venues.

There are 6 members on the K&M committee

Ray reported that Barbara has not had any direct offer of support in response to her request but Kingston were going to ask for volunteers and Matt H had also proposed locations ; one in Richmond was being looked into.

Ray expressed his concerns that it would be a challenge to run a north and south K&M workshop with the resources required and Tony said that the April initial timelines had been deferred.

Matt and Barbara were looking at a one city option? possibly Manchester.

Ian felt that if Ken and Mary come over again, CoDA members will want to attend.

Tony informed the committee, that he thought the budget to be circa £5.5K for both North and South and circa £4K for one. He talked about the K&M convention in the North, focused on working the 12 steps.

Ray said that he felt happy with the proposed structure but thought that calling it a convention is the wrong word.

Tony took the action to look into booking a venue/room and working with the K&M event committee.

Ian thought it would be good to have a different format/focus for the London and North meetings and this may encourage attendance at both.

CoDA UK Structure:

Ray proposed that the NSC is changed from National Steering Committee to National Service Committee.

This was seconded and approved.

Ray began by stating his concerns over the limited resources supporting service at National and Regional level. He felt that LSER were good at workshops but not representative of CoDA nationally and there was confusion as to roles.

Ray suggested that the NSC could be held on the same day as a LSER meeting with LSER in the morning and NSC in the afternoon.

This may encourage/enable attendance at both.

He continued by suggesting did we need two treasures for example and could this be a shared role?

Ian felt that it was sensible to have a single treasurer role so that CoDA UK wide was better supported.

Ray proposed to look into aligning the Regional and NSC meetings dates going forward. This proposal was seconded and approved.

Tony asked about how best to communicate this to that the NSC is seeking suggestions and feedback from members.

Ray said that sending anything out is still difficult with contacts not being inclusive and up to date.

Don suggested could it be announced on the website with some wording around the value of service in recovery.

Date of Next Meeting:

Ian reported that no rooms have been booked but that the next meeting would be in May

Date of Next Meeting tbc in the Waterloo Action Centre – London?