



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
General Service Conference of Ireland
6th – 8th March 2026

Gateway Hotel, Dundalk, Louth

DRAFT MINUTES

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DRAFT

Decisions agreed at Conference Meeting 2026

- A. An online Conference meeting is to be held in June 2026 to finalise translating the Big Book into Irish.
- B. Changes were made to the motions to Conference process. Full details of these are available under Item 8C of these minutes.
- C. It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Conference should have a theme.
- D. The Annual General Meeting of Conference should try to partake in a team building exercise on the Friday night of Conference every year, if the agenda for Conference allows for this.
- E. Members at all levels of Service should rotate out of their positions following the completion of their term, as set out in the Service Handbook. If there is nobody to replace them, then the role should remain vacant.
- F. Alternate Intergroup Secretaries attending Conference should follow a similar process to Alternate Delegates when being appointed.
- G. Minor changes to be made to the Service Handbook regarding Board/Company Secretary. Please see Item 8E for details.
- H. New GSR pamphlet to be produced.
- I. Subcommittee of Conference to carry out a census of the Fellowship in Ireland.
- J. New guidelines agreed for YPLO and YPAR.
- K. A new AA Conduct & Safety document was agreed.



General Service Conference of AA in Ireland

Friday 6th March to Sunday 8th March 2026

Draft Agenda

FRIDAY 6th MARCH 2026 7.45PM – 10.00PM

	Team Building Introduction	8.00pm
	Roll Call	
	Team Building Event	
	Close	10.00pm

SATURDAY 7th MARCH 2026 9.30AM – 5.00PM

1.	Opening of Conference	9.30am
2.	Roll Call and Election of Chairperson of Conference	
3.	Adoption of Agenda and other urgent business in accordance with Article 7, page 57 of 2024 Edition Service Handbook	
4.	Adoption of 2025 Conference Minutes and matters arising	
5.	Election of World Service Delegate	
6.	Introduction of New Trustees/Retiring Trustees	
7.	Motions to Conference (Drawing of Tables)	
8.	Items from previous Conference Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Literature (Big Book in Irish) 2. Review of Conference Motions Process 3. The Service Structure Subcommittee 4. Encouraging Members into Service Subcommittee 	
	Tea/Coffee Break	11.15am – 11.30am
9.	Motions to Conference (Each Table writes reports to present to the full meeting of Conference)	11.30am – 1.00pm

	Lunch	1.00am – 2.00pm
9.	Motions to Conference (Decisions on Motions)	2.00pm – 3.30pm
	Tea/Coffee Break	3.30pm – 3.45pm
10.	National Public Information Report (report taken as read)	3.45pm – 4.15pm
11.	YPLO	
12.	AA Conduct & Safety	
13.	Conference Delegates' Report – (report taken as read)	
14.	World Service Delegates Report (reports taken as read)	
15.	GB Observers Report (report taken as read)	
16.	All Ireland Convention 2025 Report (report taken as read)	
17.	All Ireland 2026 Update	
18.	GB Observers	
19.	Election of Observer to GB Conference (17 th – 19 th April 2026)	
20.	Election of Chairperson to Conference 2027	

A closed AA meeting will take place on Saturday evening at 8.00pm

SUNDAY 9TH MARCH 2025 10.00AM

21.	Conclusion of Conference (If required)	10.00am
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Opening of Conference by Chairperson

1. Introduction

Deirdre S (Chairperson) opened Conference by welcoming everybody and asked for a moments silence to consider why we were here. Conference recited the Serenity Prayer and Tradition Two was read. Deirdre read from page 49 of the General Service Handbook ‘Why Do We Need a Conference?’

Deirdre asked the Board Secretary to perform the roll call.

2. Roll Call

Connaught		Munster	
Trustee	Sean C.	Trustee	Tony O' C.
Delegate	Sheelagh McN.	Delegate	Linda D.
Delegate	John G.	Delegate	Brian S.
Delegate	Adrienne M.	Delegate	Geraldine R.
		Delegate	Audrey M.
IG Secretary (Alternate)	Richard C.	IG Secretary	Eoghan O'T.
Leinster		Ulster	
Trustee	Moira S.	Trustee	James McK.
Delegate	Orla Ni S.	Delegate	Donal Q.
Delegate	Andy D.	Delegate	Joanne M.
Delegate	Jenny K.	Delegate	Brian D.
Delegate	Anya S.		
		IG Secretary (Alternate)	John M.
Other		Observers	
Board Secretary	Anthony McN.	Gretchen S.	GB Observer
Chairperson	Deirdre S.	Levey P.	GB Observer
WSD	John T.	Chris M.	YPLO Observer
		Louise B.	YPLO Observer
		Tommy H.	YPLO Observer
		Martin C.	WSD Nominee
Apologies			
Non-AA Member Director/Trustee		Niamh Quinn	
Non-AA Member Director/Trustee		Kieron Byrne	
Non-AA Member Director/Trustee		Mike Roche	

3. Adoption of Agenda and other urgent business in accordance with Article 7 of the Conference Charter, page 57, 2025 edition Service Handbook

The Agenda was proposed by Tony O’C, seconded by Anya S.

4. Adoption of 2025 Conference Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes were proposed by James McK and seconded by Audrey.

There was a query about the final report from the 2024 All-Ireland Convention, which was answered.

5. Election of World Service Delegate

There were two nominations for this role – Martin C (Munster) and Barbara A (Leinster).

Barbara was not present at the meeting as she was abroad. A discussion followed on whether a candidate could be considered if they were not in attendance at the meeting. It was agreed that both candidates should be allowed to put their names forward as both met the required qualifications. It was further suggested that this vacancy had not been well communicated to the fellowship.

Following a third legacy procedure, Barbara A was elected to the position.

(Refer to Appendix A)

6. Introduction of New Trustees/Retiring Trustees

The Board Secretary thanked the two outgoing Non-AA member Trustees/Directors (NATs), Maire McGrath and Diarmuid McKeown. He spoke about the tremendous work undertaken by both, over a number of years.

A question was asked from the floor about the reasons for both resignations. James McK said that the primary reason for their resignations was the toxic culture that existed in Service across the Fellowship. This isn’t the first time that Trustees had resigned because of the way that they had been treated in Service. This is something that must be challenged going forward. Tony O’C also thanked the retiring NATs for their Service.

Tony then introduced James McK as the new Ulster Trustee. He had no doubt that James would bring a lot of experience and wisdom to the Board. Tony also thanked Kenny P. for his work as the former Ulster Trustee. Joanne added that she had witnessed some of this

toxic culture in Ulster, albeit among a very small cohort of members. She agreed that unacceptable behaviour needs to be challenged at every opportunity.

James spoke about the Charities Regulator who had received a small number of complaints from some of these members in the Fellowship, who seem intent to cause trouble, disruption and disharmony at every opportunity. James added that we have a very good relationship with the CRA, and he feels that they will view these complaints as being exactly what they are.

James was asked a number of questions about our policy documents, particularly our complaints policy, which might help to deal with this toxic behaviour. James said that the Board are currently working on these but that there was a lot of work involved in this and it would take some time. It can be seen from this year's accounts that substantially more money is now being spent on governance advice.

Brian D said that it was shameful that a small number of members are behaving in this manner, citing the Meet the Board event at the 2025 All-Ireland Convention as an example of toxic behaviour.

Richie C questioned if Meet the Board should take place at future conventions. Tony said that it wasn't going to happen at the convention in Killarney but that the Board would be introduced to the Fellowship in attendance at the opening meeting of the convention and that members should feel free to ask them questions over the weekend.

Sean C – At 80 years in Ireland, the Fellowship should be reaching a level of maturity where we can tackle unacceptable behaviours.

The Board Secretary then gave a brief introduction of the three new NATs. He explained to the meeting the format used to appoint them and said that he had no doubt that all of them would be valuable additions to the General Service Board. He also explained that due to prior commitments, none of them could make to Conference this year but all would be in attendance at this year's All-Ireland Convention in Killarney.

7. Motions to Conference (Drawing of Tables)

The Board Secretary had put together the following tables prior to the meeting, compiling the tables with regard to position, provincial Intergroup, experience and gender, in an effort to ensure that each table was evenly balanced.

Table A

Sean C	Connaught Trustee
John T	WSD 2
Linda D	Munster Delegate 1

Joanne M	Ulster Delegate 2
Adrienne M	Connaught Delegate 4
Levey P	GB Observer
TBD	WSD1

Table B

Moira S	Leinster Trustee
Eoghan O'T	Munster I/G Secretary
Donal Q	Ulster Delegate 1
Sheelagh McN	Connaught Delegate 2
Andrew D	Leinster Delegate 3
Audrey McD	Munster Delegate 4
Chris M	Munster YPLO

Table C

Tony O'C	Munster Trustee
John M	Alternate Ulster I/G Secretary
John G	Connaught Delegate 1
Anya S	Leinster Delegate 2
Geraldine R	Munster Delegate 3
Jenny K	Leinster Delegate 4
Tommy H	Ulster YPLO

Table D

James McK	Ulster Trustee
Richard C	Alternate Connaught I/G Secretary
Orla Ni S	Leinster Delegate 1
Brian S	Munster Delegate 2
Brian D	Ulster Delegate 3
Gretchen S	GB Observer
Louise B	Connaught YPLO

Following a drawing of lots, it was decided that Table A would discuss motions 3 & 8, Table B would discuss motions 4 & 2, Table C would discuss motions 6 & 1, and Table D would discuss motions 5 & 7.

8. Items from previous Conference Meetings

A. General Service Handbook

Moira spoke about this, saying that we had taken inspiration from the GB version, which was in softer colours, was visually more appealing and seemed to be better organised. She said that the information in the Handbook won't change but how it is presented will.

There will probably be a few small additions, such as a section explaining more about the Board and the Company and the updated AA Conduct & Safety document which was currently before Conference. It was also planned to incorporate the PI Handbook into the Service Handbook. She said that she would like to ask the groups if anything else needed to be added. She said that she hoped to bring a draft to next year's Conference meeting for approval.

There were a number of positive contributions in response to Moira's report. The consensus was that this is a good idea.

The Board Secretary asked that, as this is at least 12 months away, we should print a 2026 version of the existing Handbook, including the changes agreed at this year's Conference. The consensus was that this would be a good idea and should go ahead.

James said that we have budgeted €8,000 for the updated Service Handbook.

B. Big Book in Irish

Moira presented the report. We are in the process of getting this published. We have obtained a number of quotes. She explained what the International Literature Fund (ILF) was and what they do. They are really there to assist countries who can't afford to get literature translated themselves. She said that the "crème de la crème" of translations was going to cost us around €14,000. This would cover the translation and two proof readings.

The Board Secretary disagreed with this. He had obtained separate quotes, both for less than €8,000. He also said that he was under the impression that the ILF would translate this for us, for relatively small money.

There were a number of observations/contributions.

Jenny asked what is a "crème de la crème" translation?

Joanne – this should go ahead but why spend so much money when less expensive options are available.

Brian D – obviously a difference of opinion at Board level, which is concerning.

Adrienne – felt that we should not use ILF support, we can afford this ourselves.

Jenny – concerned about why the Leinster Trustee seemed adamant about spending so much when other options were available.

Levey – great to see that Conference is mindful of Tradition 7, but there can't be a price put on helping a suffering alcoholic. ILF will proofread our translation anyway, when it is finalised.

John T – In other countries, translations aren't always direct translations, it is the idea that is translated.

James – gave clarity that while we have been major contributors to the ILF in the past, we wouldn't be contributing to them this year.

Moira felt that the quotes received weren't for like for like translations. One of the quotes received from the Board Secretary was from DCU, who generally translate legal documents, rather than literature. The Board Secretary responded to this, saying that DCU regularly translate literature, as is stated on their website.

Linda – we need to find a resolution to this. We can't just accept the most expensive quotes if there are far cheaper, and acceptable, quotes available.

Jenny – it is very concerning that the original report only contained some of the quotes and not all of the information. She questioned why Conference was being asked to make an important decision without being given all of the information.

It was agreed by consensus that there would be a special online Conference meeting held in June, when Conference would be presented with all of the facts, by the Literature Subcommittee, and Conference could make a decision on this. It was also agreed that we would not seek financial assistance from the ILF.

C. Motions to Conference

The Board Secretary pointed out a typo in the report, the closing date for motions was 1st November, not the 21st November as stated in the report.

Moira apologised for the typo. She read out the report with some assistance from Anya.

Conference were presented with two different options in relation to future motions,

Option 1: Motions are submitted through the structure – Group Conscience to Area to Intergroup – and anonymised by the Board Secretary for publication in *The Road Back* and discussion at Conference. This allows for transparency across the

fellowship and should ideally allow motions to be discussed without prejudice at Conference.

Option 2: Motions are sent by Group Conscience to a motions Subcommittee at any time throughout the year. A consensus on the Subcommittee moves the anonymised motion forward through the structure or returns it to the Group Conscience for clarification or re-writing where needed. The Subcommittee moves the successful anonymised motions/s to randomly selected Areas from all provinces for discussion. This model could be viewed as the ultimate democratic process, allowing motions the widest transparency across the fellowship and discussion at every level without prejudice.

A discussion followed on both of these options, with varying opinions. It was questioned whether motions should have an automatic right of passage through the Structure, which has in the past led to motions being discussed at Conference which should never have made it past Intergroup.

The Chair called for a vote:

Option 1

3 members voted in favour
16 members voted against
3 members abstained

Option 2

15 members voted in favour
5 members voted against
2 members abstained

Option 2

Was successful and will become part of the process for all future motions being sent to Conference.

(Refer to Appendix B)

D. The Service Structure Subcommittee

Adrienne gave the report on behalf of the subcommittee. They presented the following recommendations.

- 1. The Annual General Meeting of Conference every year should have a theme. We feel that this would increase unity among Conference members.*

There was a short discussion on this. There are themes at many similar meetings including the GB Conference and the World Service Meeting.

This was agreed unanimously.

2. *The Annual General Meeting of Conference should try to partake in a team building exercise on the Friday night of Conference every year, if the agenda for Conference allows for this.*

19 members voted in favour

2 members voted against

1 member abstained

3. *The make-up of the General Service Board should be amended, to bring us more in line with how General Service Boards operate in other countries. We are proposing the following changes*

- A. *The number of Trustees should be increased by 3. The current number (4) of provincial Trustees would remain the same. 3 NATs would continue to be appointed under the current system. But three additional Trustees would be added to the Board bringing the total number of Board members to 10.*

- B. *At least 2 of these additional Trustees would be Alcoholic Trustees, who would be appointed to the Board in order that their specific skillsets or experience can be utilised by the Board, primarily in relation to the running of the company, General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland clg (GSBAA)*

- C. *The third additional Trustee may be an alcoholic Trustee or a NAT, who would be appointed for similar reasons detailed above.*

- D. *The term of office for these additional Trustees would be for two years, renewable once.*

- E. *Nominations for these positions should come from a group, through the Structure.*

- F. *A nominations committee appointed by the Board would interview prospective candidates prior to appointment.*

- G. *These new Trustees would not hold direct responsibility for an Intergroup committee, but would be equal Trustees/Directors.*

No decision was made on this recommendation. It was agreed that it should be further discussed at a separate Conference meeting to be held in September 2026.

4. *We are recommending that the number of Conference Delegates be increased. We are not making any specific recommendations in relation to this but we would like Conference to have a discussion about this. The feeling of the subcommittee was that there is currently an imbalance in the number of members represented by a GSCD when they attend Conference. Maybe GSCDs should be appointed based on population or the number of groups in areas. Currently, some GSCDs visit one area while others visit 4/5 areas. While we will probably never get this*

perfect, it is felt that a levelling could happen whereby a relatively equal number of members/groups could have an equal voice at Conference.

No decision was made on this recommendation. It was agreed that it should be further discussed at a separate Conference meeting to be held in September 2026.

5. *Members at all levels of Service should rotate out of their positions following the completion of their term, as set out in the Service Handbook. Members staying on past the completion of their term "because there's nobody to take on the role" has been suggested to be one of the biggest obstacles to attracting other members into Service. If there is nobody to take up the role being vacated, the group/area/intergroup should appoint someone else on a temporary basis. But it should not be the person vacating the role.*

Agreed by consensus.

6. *We are recommending that a second physical conference meeting should be held each year, possibly in September. We feel that this would help encourage unity among Conference members.*

There was a lengthy discussion on this. It was felt that it would be beneficial to the Fellowship to have a second physical Conference in the Autumn. It was also felt that Conference/Company members should be provided with sufficient training to carry out their roles.

Agreed by consensus.

7. *Alternate Intergroup Secretaries attending Conference should follow a similar process to Alternate Delegates when being appointed.*

Agreed by consensus. Wording in the Service Handbook to be changed to reflect this.

(Refer to Appendix C)

E. Encouraging Members into Service Subcommittee

Anya presented the report to Conference. It was agreed by consensus that the Subcommittee should continue after Conference.

Audrey and Brian D spoke about their own experiences in this area. They felt that these recommendations were badly needed. They both suggested sending this report out to the groups.

Linda said it was great to work on this Subcommittee as part of a small focused group.

Sean echoed Linda's comments and said that he felt that the Structure in Ireland was in good shape.

Following this, the Board Secretary sought consent from Conference to make a couple of minor changes to the Service Handbook. Going forward, the Board/Company Secretary was going to be split into 2 separate roles – the traditional Board Secretary and a new position of General Manager, which will be a salaried position.

It was agreed by consensus that changes in the Service Handbook could be made to reflect this. It was further agreed that the Board secretary should ‘preferably’ have served 4 years at Conference. This has added the word ‘preferably’.

Gretchen spoke about her own service journey and said that the structure in Ireland appears to be in good health. Board Secretary brought an item to the attention of the meeting. In previous Service Handbooks, it was clearly stated that all members of Conference were entitled to have a voice and a vote. This had been discussed and agreed at various meetings of Conference over many years. But in the latest editions of the Service Handbook, it was stated that Conference Delegates had a right to a vote at Area and Intergroup meetings throughout the country. He felt that this was unclear and was probably worded incorrectly when the new Service Handbook was being drafted. It was agreed by consensus that the wording in the Service Handbook should be amended and that the term ‘Conference members’ should replace ‘Conference Delegates’.

(Refer to Appendix D)

9. Motions to Conference

(Refer to Appendix E for Motions in full)

MOTION NO. 1

“Conference review and amend the Service Handbook for A.A. In Ireland to eliminate as far as is possible any errors, contradictions, omissions or ambiguities in the document. The aim is to make the Handbook more cohesive, more readable, user friendly and relevant.”

Table C recommendation: The Literature Subcommittee has already undertaken to revamp and reformat the Service Handbook. At the same time, it would be our recommendation that they undertake correction of various typos and omissions.

Sidenote: We would like to raise attention in conference to the inconsistency between the stated sobriety duration in the Service Handbook and the treasurer’s handbook. The Service Handbook says 12 months, while the Treasurer’s Handbook says two years. We would recommend changing the Service Handbook to two years.

15 members voted in favour of accepting the Table's recommendations
5 members voted against
2 members abstained

This motion was not successful

MOTION NO. 2

Production of videos of the Big Book and 12&12 in Irish Sign Language

Conference requests the Board to arrange for the production of videos in Irish Sign Language of the books "Alcoholics Anonymous" and "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" to help carry the AA message of recovery to deaf alcoholics.

Although we did not pass this motion as it stands, we wanted it noted that we fell strongly about supporting the deaf community and acknowledged how vital it is for members and still suffering alcoholics to be connected and to help each other in and into sobriety. No one gets sober on their own. We noted in Ireland the existence of the monthly Molesworth Open ISL physical meeting and the Sober Signs online ISL meeting. We also wondered if the deaf community in Ireland can avail of any of the resources or meetings available in GB and US/Canada? We wondered if it would be possible for AA groups that have rooms with hearing loops to add this info to our meetings list on the web.

We noted the draw on our AA resources in the current economic climate in the fellowship and wondered if the scope could be looked: for example, could short videos of sections of the Big Book be an initial option rather than almost €40,000 to produce the full Big Book and 12 & 12 in ISL.

19 members voted in favour of accepting the Table's recommendations
3 members voted against
0 members abstained

This motion was not successful.

MOTION NO. 3

"That the General Service Conference revise its current policy regarding former Conference Delegates and Trustees."

Upon completion of their service term at Conference or Trustee level, members would:

1. ***Return to group-level service and may, after that, progress again through the service structure (Group → Intergroup → Area → Conference → Trustee), as is the case in other countries.***
2. ***Alternatively, Conference may consider a defined ‘cooling-off’ period of three years before a member can begin serving again in the wider service structure.***

Some of the background information quoted is incorrect regarding the practices of other service structures. We appreciate the experience and value of members in their 40's and 50's still wishing to do Service and note that they may still do so at group level. We should also be mindful of the spirit of rotation and encourage others into Service.

This motion should not be passed.

18 members voted in favour of accepting the Table's recommendations

2 members voted against

2 members abstained

This motion was not successful.

MOTION NO. 4

Recommend Conference set up a Subcommittee to adopt a GSR Pamphlet similar to other Service Structures. The GB "Now that you are a GSR" is an example.

Groups are the link to AA as a whole. GSR is most important role in service structure. We do need this leaflet in our GSR pack. We entrust our Literature Subcommittee to make it appealing and uniquely Irish, reflecting our structure from group to area and Intergroup. We recommend passing this motion.

22 members voted in favour of accepting the Table's recommendations

0 members voted against

0 members abstained

This motion was successful.

MOTION NO. 5

Proposes the reinstatement of the 1989 General Service Conference decision that:

“Alcoholics Anonymous does not approve of specialist meetings that might exclude or appear to exclude any individual who has a desire to stop drinking”

Specialist meetings are happening in Ireland anyway. This has been debated for a couple of years and it is the consensus of the table that this motion should not carry.

19 members voted in favour of accepting the Table's recommendations

0 members voted against

3 members abstained

This motion was not successful.

MOTION NO. 6

This "group requests that the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous undertakes a census of members of the fellowship within 12 months, following the 2026 meeting of Conference, as it is now over 15 years since the last such census was conducted. The group also requests that Conference establish a frequency for future censuses to be held. The group requests that the format of the census and future censuses be set out by Conference or a subcommittee of Conference."

Recommendation: Nominate a subcommittee to undertake the census

Recommendation: 6 months to format the census, and 6 months to undertake it.

Feedback of the census format at the Reconvened Conference meeting in September to address/adjust the questions in the census before sending it out to the fellowship.

Details/Guidance:

- How many groups?
- Online groups?
- Hybrid groups?
- In-person groups?
- Meetings per group?
- How many members?
- Meeting types/classifiers e.g. open, closed, men, women...
- Bands of Ages
- Gender breakdown male/female/other
- Sobriety time, is it Continuous?
- How did you come into AA? Media/Friend/12-step/professional?

Feedback received: AAGB takes a census every 5 years, and would be glad to share with the subcommittee their current survey

20 members voted in favour of accepting the Table's recommendations

2 members voted against

0 members abstained

This motion was successful.

MOTION NO. 7

After emergency group conscience following motion agreed to be submitted

Oppose appointment of management position as attached on following grounds

- 1) Necessity of paid position***
- 2) Procedure of appointment***
- 3) Groups consultation of said position***

The feeling of the table is that this motion is contrary to Concept II and Concept X. We recommend that this motion is not accepted.

21 members voted in favour of accepting the Table's recommendations

0 members voted against

1 member abstained

This motion was not successful.

MOTION NO. 8

Following a Group Conscience meeting, we wish to object to the GSBAA action of employing an outside agency to advertise to the general public, the position of a paid new General Secretary of GSBAA Ireland.

This motion is an objection rather than a motion. Refer to guidelines on writing motions to Conference, Tradition 8 and Concept X. We recommend that this motion should not be passed.

22 members voted in favour of accepting the Table's recommendations

0 members voted against

0 members abstained

This motion was not successful.

Conference closed following the Motions and was reconvened on Sunday 8th March at 9am.

10. National Public Information Report (taken as read)

Brian S asked if there are any guidelines for social media use. Jenny replied that guidelines are on the way.

Levey – GB are also producing guidelines. They are active on Instagram, without the chat function.

There was a discussion on metrics to show if National PI was successful. Brian D said that success couldn't be judged on metrics alone. He added that we have had a presence on X for some time.

Tony thanked all the subcommittees for their tremendous work over the last year.

(Refer to Appendix F)

11. YPLO (taken as read)

Jenny introduced Chris, Louise and Tommy as three of the four provincial YPLOs. It was great to have them at Conference. She asked that the new guidelines for YPLO and YPAR which were before Conference be ratified by the meeting. These were agreed by consensus.

The YPLOs were asked a number of questions which they answered. There will be a Young at Heart meeting at the All-Ireland.

James said that he has been involved with YPLO. They are working very well.

Sean said that there are very exciting times ahead for young members coming into the Fellowship.

Tony said that he had been sceptical about YPLO at the start but they have proven him wrong and are on the way to being a great success.

(Refer to Appendix G)

12. AA Conduct & Safety

This was presented by Tony.

Brian D felt that this was an excellent document and was a worthwhile upgrade on the previous document.

Audrey welcomed the document. She said that there are a lot more requirements coming down the road regarding safeguarding.

Levey said that we are all considered vulnerable in AA. There is a similar document in GB, which initially attracted some negative reactions when first published. But it is a legal requirement that we have such a document. **The new document was agreed unanimously.**

James said that it is on the Board's agenda to deal with safeguarding. He also said that more work needs to be done on Appendix 8 in the Service Handbook. It was suggested that a subcommittee be set up to look at ways to improve it. Sean proposed James to chair this subcommittee. Anthony seconded this nomination. James is to invite someone from each Intergroup to join the subcommittee. The subcommittee will report back to Conference with recommendations.

(Refer to Appendix H)

13. Conference Delegates Reports (taken as read)

(Refer to Appendix I for full report)

14. World Service Delegates Report (taken as read)

John T thanked Tom D for his invaluable work and support over the last few years. The next World service Meeting will be held in Lisbon, Portugal in October.

(Refer to Appendix J)

15. GB Observers Report (taken as read)

(Refer to Appendix K)

16. All-Ireland Convention Report 2025 (taken as read)

(Refer to Appendix L)

17. All-Ireland 2026 Update

Linda gave an outline of plans in place for the convention. The hotel is booked out. Lots of local amenities booked out. There won't be a 'Meet the Board'. Registration will cost €20.

Tony thanked the subcommittee. He said that there will be an article in the Sunday World prior to the event.

18. GB Observers

Gretchen thanked everyone for being so welcoming and friendly. She was pleasantly surprised at how productive Conference had been.

Levey thanked everyone. Great to see everyone going back to the basic principles, Traditions and Concepts.

Audrey was nominated by Linda. Joanne was nominated by Brian D. Both candidates were agreed by consensus to attend the GB Conference in York in April.

19. Election of Chairperson for Conference 2027

Brian D (Ulster) was agreed by consensus. He suggested 'Circles of Love and Service' as the theme for Conference 2027. This was agreed.

20. Closing of Conference 2026

Following the conclusion of business, Deirdre thanked everyone and closed the meeting with the serenity prayer.

APPENDICES

Appendix	Description
A	World Service Delegate Nominations
B	Motions to Conference Process
C	The Service Structure Subcommittee
D	Encouraging Members into Service
E	Motions to Conference in full
F	National Public Information Committee Report
G	Young People's Liaison Officers (YPLO)
H	AA Conduct and Safety
I	Conference Delegates Reports
J	World Service Delegates Reports
K	GB Observers Reports
L	All Ireland Convention Report 2025

Appendix A

World Service Delegate Nominations

At the last meeting of Munster Intergroup, Sunday 4th January 2026, Martin C was nominated for the position of World Service Delegate by West Cork Area. Martin confirmed he met the eligibility criteria as set out in the Service Handbook (2025) p52-53, including service as General Service Conference Delegate and Trustee for Munster for full terms. There were no other nominations, and the nomination was accepted by the meeting and I have been requested to forward his nomination to you for consideration at the 2026 meeting of Conference.

Hi Anthony,

This nomination of Barbara A for World Service Delegate was accepted unanimously by the committee members of the Leinster Intergroup Meeting held on the 18t Jan 2026.

We wish her success in Conference in her efforts to be elected as a World Service Delegate.

In service,

*Anya S,
Leinster Intergroup Secretary (Caretaker)*

Appendix B

Motions to Conference Process: Subcommittee Report, January 2026

This is our first year establishing the newly adopted **Motions to Conference Process**. For reference, our Subcommittee agreed at Conference 2023 to bring a report to Conference 2024 recommending changes on how we submit motions to Conference and how decisions are made on those motions. Conference 2024 acknowledged the importance of sending the recommendations out to the Fellowship for feedback. On foot of this, the Subcommittee produced the document **Guidelines for Submitting Motions to Conference** for Conference 2025.

A robust discussion at Conference 2025 informed and helped update the Guidelines and it was agreed to adopt them for Conference 2026. To help ensure the fellowship were well informed, a section of the Guidelines – *Preparing a Motion for Conference* – was published in *The Road Back* in Spring/Summer in advance of the deadline of November 21st 2025. The motions submitted were subsequently published anonymously in the Winter Edition of *The Road Back*. Having now come through the first year of using and establishing the guidelines, feedback was requested from Intergroup Secretaries on how the process worked and how it might move forward successfully. The following encapsulates the very welcome and extensive feedback received from Intergroups and members and which has been considered by the Subcommittee.

In Ulster, the GSCDs went through the guidelines with their respective areas during the year and it seemed to bring clarity to the process. In other provinces, the publication of guidelines and motions in *The Road Back* was strongly appreciated, although it did not necessarily lead to further discussion at Areas or Intergroups. This may be due to the newness of the process and members getting used to providing feedback.

In Munster there was concern that a return to the original proposed deadline of August 31st would mean that motions needed to be submitted as early as the July Intergroup, some seven months in advance of the next Conference. This early deadline would also mean that there was insufficient time to adequately reword motions which had been returned to Groups. In Leinster the November Intergroup meeting had already been scheduled after the November 21st deadline. This meant that motions had to be in for the September Intergroup meeting, again some six months before Conference. It is hoped that Intergroups are in a position to schedule meetings in advance of the proposed continued deadline of November 21st to ensure that there is sufficient time for the above concerns.

There were different interpretations around the anonymisation process. Leinster Intergroup for instance, anonymised the motions for discussion at their meeting, although for the purposes of reference, the origin Group and Area were retained when passing on the motion to the Board Secretary. By contrast Connaught, Ulster and Munster were aware of the groups and areas from where motions were submitted from. It was noted by all that even with anonymisation at Intergroup level and Conference level, it was inevitable that some members would know the origin of motions.

For the anonymisation process, two potential routes have been proposed over the course of this Subcommittee's life, and in particular on foot of this year's experience and feedback. Both options are incorporated into the attached updated guidelines for consideration at Conference.

It is also a question for consideration whether the words QUESTION/ TOPIC might replace the current term MOTION.

It is our hope that the new process is establishing itself as an energising force for the Motions to Conference Process.

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING MOTIONS TO CONFERENCE JANUARY 2026

Preparing a Motion for Conference

These are considerations to help when submitting a motion for Conference through the structure.

Motions are submitted by a Group through the structure via its Group Conscience to Area to Intergroup to Conference. Motions are accepted as written and ought only to be revised or edited by the Group Conscience. There ought to be a fully informed discussion at each stage of the structure – Group, Area and Intergroup. There ought subsequently to be a consensus to move it forward to the next stage or to decline it.

What is a motion? It is an instruction to hopefully improve or implement an aspect of our some of our service structure.

What is not a motion? A statement, a complaint, a problem or a challenge without a suggested solution.

- Examples of motions:
 - A change or update to the General Service Handbook
 - A request that a piece of literature from another country's structure be introduced to Ireland
- Evaluate if there is sufficient information for Conference to discuss the motion: background information, such as relevant literature, previous conference decisions, or reports from the Board.
- Is the motion clear? Motions are sometimes returned through the structure because they are not clear on what is being proposed.
- Is the motion a Group or Area issue? Motions are sometimes returned because they are concerned with Group or Area matters. For example, recently there was a motion about insurance, which is an Area issue.
- Has the motion already been successfully brought to Conference in recent years. Sometimes motions are submitted to implement something that is already in place.

Deadline for submission of Motions to Conference

Motions for discussion at the upcoming General Service Conference should be submitted by 21st November each year to the Board secretary in the normal manner, through the structure.

The fellowship is informed of this deadline in ***The Road Back*** and through the normal AA Ireland group email boxes and AA Ireland website.

Intergroups have the option to arrange their meeting dates so that they align with the 21st November deadline. This would ensure time for: a) considered responses and rewrites on motions that are sent back to groups; and b) the submission of new motions that remain topical by the time Conference comes around.

Keeping the fellowship informed

Option 1: Motions are submitted through the structure – Group Conscience to Area to Intergroup – and anonymised by the Board Secretary for publication in The Road Back and discussion at Conference. This allows for transparency across the fellowship and should ideally allow motions to be discussed without prejudice at Conference.

Option 2: Motions are sent by Group Conscience to a motions Subcommittee at any time throughout the year. A consensus on the Subcommittee moves the anonymised motion forward through the structure or returns it to the Group Conscience for clarification or re-writing where needed. The Subcommittee moves the successful anonymised motions/s to randomly selected Areas from all provinces for discussion. This model could be viewed as the ultimate democratic process, allowing motions the widest transparency across the fellowship and discussion at every level without prejudice.

Discussion of Motions at Conference

Breakout tables are used to discuss anonymised motions at Conference. Similar motions are grouped together. Each table is balanced with at least one representative from each province and one Trustee. World Service Delegates, Non-AA Member Trustees and Observers will be evenly distributed as feasible. This allows Conference members the opportunity to discuss motions fully and provide an opportunity for the minority voice to be heard, should it arise.

It is hoped that the suggestions in **Preparing a Motion for Conference** encourages motions that are suitable for discussion to come through the structure. The breakout tables will nonetheless evaluate if there is sufficient information for Conference to discuss a motion. If necessary, additional information will be requested to assist in the resubmittal of a motion.

Once each breakout table has fully discussed their assigned Motions, a summary is presented to all members of Conference for voting.

Decisions of Conference

The decision of Conference resulting from any vote or any motion or item before Conference shall have the following effects:

All items or motions passed by a two-thirds majority become Conference policy immediately and are recommended in trust to all Groups, Area Committees, Intergroups, Conference and Board. All items or motions receiving only a simple majority are recommendations and shall be further debated at the next General Meeting of Conference. The General Service Board should take any necessary action.

The Service Handbook will be updated to reflect the agreed changes.

Appendix C

Service Structure Subcommittee Interim Report to Conference 2026

This subcommittee consisted of a Trustee, the Board Secretary and representation from each Intergroup. The subcommittee met on 6 different occasions throughout the year.

The subcommittee would like to present the following recommendations to Conference for your consideration.

1. The Annual General Meeting of Conference every year should have a theme. We feel that this would increase unity among Conference members.
2. The Annual General Meeting of Conference should try to partake in a team building exercise on the Friday night of Conference every year, if the agenda for Conference allows for this.
3. The make-up of the General Service Board should be amended, to bring us more in line with how General Service Boards operate in other countries. We are proposing the following changes
 - A. the number of Trustees should be increased by 3. The current number (4) of provincial Trustees would remain the same. 3 NATs would continue to be appointed under the current system. But three additional Trustees would be added to the Board bringing the total number of Board members to 10.
 - B. At least two of these additional Trustees would be Alcoholic Trustees, who would be appointed to the Board in order that their specific skillsets or experience can be utilised by the Board, primarily in relation to the running of the company, GSBAA clg.
 - C. The third additional Trustee may be an alcoholic Trustee or a NAT, who would be appointed for similar reasons detailed above.
 - D. The term of office for these additional Trustees would be for two years, renewable once.
 - E. Nominations for these positions should come from a group, through the Structure.
 - F. A nominations committee appointed by the Board would interview prospective candidates prior to appointment.
 - G. These new Trustees would not hold direct responsibility for an Intergroup committee, but would be equal Trustees/Directors.
 - H. We are recommending that the number of Conference Delegates be increased. We are not making any specific recommendations in relation to this but we would like Conference to have a discussion about this. The feeling of the subcommittee was that there is currently an imbalance in the number of members represented by a GSCD when they attend Conference. Maybe GSCDs should be appointed based on population or the number of groups in areas. Currently, some GSCDs visit one area while others visit 4/5 areas. While we will probably never get this perfect, it is felt that a levelling could happen whereby a relatively equal number of members/groups could have an equal voice at Conference.
4. Members at all levels of Service should rotate out of their positions following the completion of their term, as set out in the service Handbook. Members staying on past the completion of their term “because there’s nobody to take on the role” has been suggested to be one of the biggest obstacles to attracting other members into Service. If

there is nobody to take up the role being vacated, the group/area/intergroup should appoint someone else on a temporary basis. But it should not be the person vacating the role.

5. We are recommending that a second physical conference meeting should be held each year, possibly in September. We feel that this would help encourage unity among Conference members.

Alternate Intergroup Secretaries attending Conference should follow a similar process to Alternate Delegates when being appointed.

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Appendix D

Encouraging Participation in Service in Alcoholics Anonymous (Ireland)

Foreword from the Subcommittee

This document has been prepared by a Subcommittee tasked with exploring **practical and spiritually sound ways to encourage participation in service** within Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland.

Our discussions arose from shared experience across Groups, Areas and Intergroups, where we observed both the **vital importance of service to recovery** and the **real challenges many members face when considering service**. We are conscious that service, like recovery itself, must be approached with care, patience and encouragement.

The intention of this paper is not to instruct or direct, but to **offer suggestions for consideration**, grounded in A.A. experience, the *Service Handbook for Ireland*, and in keeping with A.A. Tradition, all matters relating to service remain subject to **Group Conscience**.

We hope this document may help foster a culture where service is: - Clearly understood - Gently encouraged - Spiritually nourishing - Sustainable for the individual and the Fellowship
Offered in humility and service,

The Subcommittee on Encouraging Participation in Service

Purpose

This paper is offered as a **discussion document and set of suggestions** for Groups, Areas and Intergroups in Ireland, with the aim of **encouraging healthy, sustainable participation in service**. It draws on: - The *AA Service Handbook for Ireland (2025)* and shared experience from members currently involved in service.

These suggestions are not rules. As always, **Group Conscience remains the sole authority**.

Why Service Matters

Bill W. reminds us that: > “Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives.

Recovery in A.A. rests on **three spiritual legs**: 1. **Recovery** (the Steps) 2. **Unity** (the Traditions) 3. **Service** (the Third Legacy)

When any one leg is weakened, the stool becomes unstable. Service is not separate from recovery; **it is an expression of it**.

Key Observations from Experience

Across Groups and Areas, common challenges emerge: - Members unsure *how* to get involved in service - Fear of “doing it wrong” or being overburdened - New members either pushed too quickly, or not encouraged at all - A lack of visible joy and encouragement around service - Discouragement or criticism that drives people away from service roles

These suggestions aim to address those issues in a balanced, spiritually sound way.

Core Suggestions from the Subcommittee

1. Introduce the Role of a **Service Sponsor**

- Encourage each Group to recognise service sponsorship alongside recovery sponsorship
- A service sponsor helps members:
 - Understand A.A. structure
 - Learn Traditions and Concepts in practice
 - Avoid burnout and confusion
- This role is already recognised in A.A. literature and experience.

Principle: *We don't do service alone.*

2. Avoid Pushing New Members into Service Too Early

- Service should be **invited, not imposed**
- Early recovery must remain the priority
- Gentle exposure and information is often more effective than recruitment

Suggested approach: - Inform newcomers about service - Allow time for recovery and belonging to develop naturally

3. Allow a Settling-In Period Before Major Roles

- When a member enters service, consider a **minimum six-month learning period** before roles such as:
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - GSR
- This supports confidence, continuity and good stewardship

Principle: *We learn service by doing it — gradually.*

4. Regular Group Sharing on Service

- Invite Groups to hold **monthly or quarterly short talks** on service
- Topics might include:
 - What service has given me
 - What my home group means to me
 - How service supports my sobriety

Experience shows: attraction works better than instruction.

5. Gently Remind Members of Our Shared Responsibility

- Without guilt or pressure, remind members that:
 - Service is part of our recovery programme
 - A.A. exists only because members before us served

This reflects Tradition One (Unity) and Tradition Five (Primary Purpose)

6. Re-emphasise the Importance of Tradition One

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

- Service helps safeguard unity
- Participation builds a sense of shared ownership of A.A.

7. Encourage Every Member to Have a Home Group

- The Service Handbook highlights the **home group** as the foundation of service
- Home groups are where:
 - Group conscience is formed
 - Members learn responsibility
 - Service naturally begins

8. Ask Groups: “What Can We Do for You?”

- Encourage Area and Intergroup Committees to:
 - Visit Groups
 - Listen more than instruct
 - Offer support rather than direction

Service flows best when it responds to real needs.

9. Encourage the Spirit of Rotation

- Rotation prevents:
 - Burnout
 - Power accumulation
 - Dependence on individuals
- It also creates **new opportunities for participation and growth**

10. Introduce Greeters at Meetings

- Suggest having a greeter at:
 - Group meetings
 - Area meetings
 - Intergroup meetings

This simple act: - Builds welcome and inclusion - Models service in action - Helps newcomers feel they belong

11. Show, Don't Tell

- Members are more likely to serve when they see:
 - Joy
 - Gratitude
 - Spiritual growth

Service that is visibly life-giving attracts others naturally.

12. Address Discouragement Openly

- Discouragement, criticism and negativity can quietly damage the Fellowship
- Groups and Committees may benefit from:
 - Acknowledging this issue
 - Practising encouragement and kindness
 - Remembering that trusted servants are volunteers

How we treat servants teaches others whether service is safe.

Additional Suggestions for Consideration

- Short service workshops at Area level
- Simple service role descriptions to reduce fear
- Sharing positive service experiences in newsletters or announcements
- Using tools like audio, podcasts or summaries to make service material more accessible

Closing Thought

Bill W. wrote that service is **“anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer.”**

When we encourage service with patience, humility and love, we help ensure that: *“When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, the hand of A.A. will always be there.”*

Offered in the spirit of service and fellowship. Subject always to Group Conscience.

Supplemental Documents

We have produced a few documents as part of the process, which could be used by groups to help encourage people into service, as well as to help people understand the roles and responsibilities of members who are taking on service.

These documents are presented for consideration of Conference.

Service in Alcoholics Anonymous - A Short Guide for Groups

The purpose of this document is to guide people in what service entails, and ways to encourage members to take up service at group level. It contains a distillation of the primary items from our main report.

Service in Alcoholics Anonymous

A Short Guide for Groups

Why Service Matters

Alcoholics Anonymous stands on **three spiritual legs**: - Recovery (the Steps) - Unity (the Traditions) - Service (the Third Legacy)

Service is not separate from recovery — it is one way we **practice our principles in all our affairs**.

What Is Service?

Service is **anything that helps carry the A.A. message**: - Making tea or setting up chairs - Greeting newcomers - Taking on a group role - Participating at Area or Intergroup level
All service matters.

Key Suggestions for Groups

Encourage, don't pressure

Members should be invited into service gently, at the right time for their recovery.

Allow time to learn

New members entering service benefit from a settling-in period before taking major roles.

Promote service sponsorship

Experienced members can support others by sharing service experience and guidance.

Talk about service regularly

Short, occasional group shares help normalise service and remove fear.

Encourage home groups

Service grows naturally when members belong and participate.

Practice rotation

Rotation keeps service healthy and opens opportunities for others.

Show by example

Members are attracted to service when they see joy, humility and gratitude.

A Note on Discouragement

How we speak to and about trusted servants matters. Encouragement helps service grow; discouragement can quietly damage the Fellowship.

In Closing

Service helps ensure that: > *When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, the hand of A.A. will always be there.*

Subject always to Group Conscience.

Now That You Are a GSR

We looked to the fellowship in other countries and saw that AAGB had produced a pamphlet—*Now That You Are A GSR*, which contained detail of practical things that a new GSR should consider when trying to be of best service to their Group, as well as working with previous GSRs to help them in their service.

This document would be intended to supplement the content of the GSR pack, which is available from GSO.

This pamphlet is not in its final form, but is presented as a draft of what could be produced should we choose to do so.

WHAT DO I DO AT AREA?

- Represent your group conscience at all area meetings.
- As a trusted servant, express your group's views — not your own.
- Know your group well enough to respond to unexpected matters.
- Take notes to help you report back accurately.
- Review the area treasurer's report to ensure your group's contribution is recorded.
- Bring local meeting lists back to your group where available.

Remember: when voting on business matters, you represent your group conscience, but you vote according to the best dictates of your own judgement and conscience at that time.

HOW DO I GET SUPPORT?

1. Familiarise yourself with the GSR section of The latest Service Handbook for Ireland.
2. Speak to your sponsor.
3. Learn and understand the Twelve Traditions.
4. Ask your area about a buddy or mentor.
5. Speak with former GSRs in your group.
6. Share experience with other GSRs in your area.

"Most of us learn that recovery from alcoholism is not just a gift to be clutched selfishly to oneself. It also means responsibility for service to others."
(A Service Handbook for Ireland, pg.3)

NOW THAT YOU ARE A GSR
(Group Service Representative)

IN MY GROUP
AT AREA
IN AA AS A WHOLE

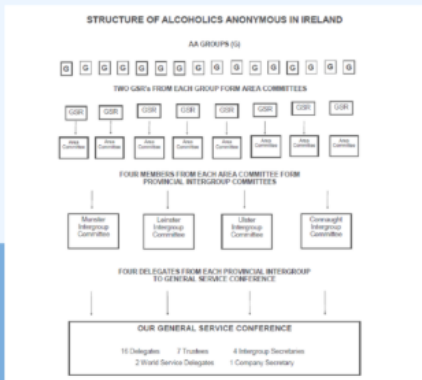
The purpose of this pamphlet is to outline the role and responsibilities of a Group Service Representative (GSR) at group and area level within Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland.

THE SERVICE STRUCTURE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (IRELAND)

"Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." (Extract from Tradition 2)

AA Groups: The primary unit of AA is the Group. Traditionally any two or more alcoholics meeting together for the purpose of sobriety may consider themselves an AA Group provided that, as a Group, they are self-supporting and have no outside affiliation.

Area Committees: In AA, an Area is a subdivision of the relevant Provincial Intergroup, usually a specific geographical area containing a number of individual Groups. Generally, an Area will comprise not more than 20 Groups. Should there be more than 20 Groups the Area Committee may divide and form a new Area. The Area Committee is a Committee made up of two GSRs from each Group within that Area.



Intergroup Committees: The Provincial Intergroups (Intergroup or IG) are based on the historic provinces of Leinster, Connaught, Munster and Ulster. Each Intergroup Committee consists of the following:

- four GSRs, preferably including Area officers, elected from each Area Committee (Area Representatives);
- the four IG General Service Conference Delegates (GSCDs);
- the Intergroup Secretary;
- the Intergroup Chairperson;
- the Intergroup Treasurer; and
- the Provincial Trustee who has been appointed as a Director of the General Services Board of Alcoholics Anonymous CLC.

General Service Conference: The General Service Conference of Ireland is the group of members who meet annually, or as decided, to co-ordinate the affairs of the Fellowship, bringing together the opinions and problems of all the Groups in Ireland in order to arrive at a consensus and to decide on best practice for the fellowship. Conference is the forum where matters of concern to AA in Ireland are discussed, and solutions are arrived at through the substantial unanimity of the delegates attending. Conference is the official guardian of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service, and as such is the Group Conscience of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland. Conference derives its authority from the fellowship of AA as a whole in Ireland.

WHAT DO I DO FOR MY GROUP?

The role of the GSR - who should have at least two years' continuous sobriety - is described in A Service Handbook for Ireland.

It is suggested that you familiarise yourself with the guidance in the handbook. The following are practical actions to help you link your group with AA as a whole.

1. Attend all area meetings. If unable to attend, suggest an alternative representative.
2. Discuss agenda items with your group before area meetings.
3. Submit a written group report to the area secretary.
4. If bringing your group's contribution, collect a receipt from the area treasurer.
5. Report back to your group after area meetings.
6. Ensure group officer details are kept up-to-date with GSO.
7. Share all Fellowship communications and news with your group.
8. Notify GSO and local list contacts of any meeting changes.
9. Pass contact details of members willing to serve (PI, prisons, etc.) to area convenors.
10. Ensure copies of A Service Handbook for Ireland are available at meetings.
11. Inform your group about the General Service Conference process and questions.
12. Encourage group members to attend area meetings and become involved in service.

As we produced this document, one of the committee members noted that there had previously been a pamphlet *G.S.R.- General Service Representative*, subtitled *May be the most important job in A.A.*

This pamphlet had been available from GSO but had been discontinued due to poor sales. The detail in the pamphlet is extensive and outlines a lot of the work and procedures that should be undertaken, an Area by the GSR and the Group that they represent.

This information is in the Service Handbook, but the pamphlet provides an easy means of accessing it.

Conference subsequently produced a GSR service pouch containing some of the items mentioned in this original pamphlet. There is a lack of a unifying pamphlet in the GSR service pouch to help understand the reasoning behind the individual pamphlets and booklets in the pouch. It is a recommendation of the subcommittee that we should introduce a pamphlet like the one presented above to be included in this pouch, as it would complement the content.

Alcoholics Anonymous Service Structure in Ireland – One Pager

While all the information related to the Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland is available within the pages of the Service Handbook, the information is scattered. In general, many members of AA are completely unaware that there is even wider element of service available outside their Group. With this in mind, we produced a one-page poster which can be used to describe service at the Group, Area, Intergroup and Conference to help members recognise this.

This is detailed below. It attempts to capture the core elements of the roles and responsibilities at each level, without overburdening the document with too much content.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IRELAND SERVICE STRUCTURE

Group Service Positions	Area Service Positions	Provincial Intergroup
<p style="text-align: center;">Member</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> Stay sober, help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i> A Desire to stop drinking</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Share experience, strength and hope. Carry the message. Practice unity, service, recovery. Participate in their Home Group business</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">General Service Representative</p> <p>Links a Group with their Area. Represents the Group Conscience</p> <p>2 years current sobriety preferred, AA steps & traditions familiarity</p> <p>Participate in discussions at Area. Carry Groups views and proposals to Area. Report on Area activities to Group Conscience. Passes contributions from Group to Area</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Provincial Intergroup</p> <p>Composed of Area Representatives, Conference Delegates, Intergroup Secretary, and Provincial Trustee</p> <p>Coordinates AA activities at the provincial level</p> <p>Organise provincial services. Appoints General Service Conference Delegates. Manages provincial funding and subcommittees. Connects Areas and the General Service Board</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Secretary</p> <p>Organise and facilitate specific AA meetings of the group</p> <p>12 months current sobriety preferred</p> <p>Arrange the room. Organize speakers. Make announcements. Warm welcome</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Area Committee</p> <p>Responsible for welfare of AA structure, promoting growth and harmony in a geographical area</p> <p>Up to two GSRs from each Group in Area</p> <p>Co-ordinate local services – Hospitals, Prisons, Public Information, Telephones. Organises Area Conventions and Workshops. Maintains literature bank</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">General Service Conference Positions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Service Conference Delegate</p> <p>Represents the province at the General Service Conference of Ireland</p> <p>Minimum 5 years current sobriety. Actively engaged in service at Group, Area and Intergroup level. Nominated by Group, ratified by Area, elected by Intergroup</p> <p>Attends Conference as full participant. Reports on Area concerns to provincial Trustee. Member of All Ireland Convention Committee in their Province</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Group Secretary/Chairman</p> <p>Maintain landlord relations, coordinate group activities</p> <p>2 years current sobriety preferred</p> <p>Organise Group Conscience meetings. Manages communications with Area, GSO and other members. Keep GSO up to date with group activities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Provincial Intergroup Positions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Intergroup Representative</p> <p>Represents Area at the Provincial Intergroup level</p> <p>At least 3 years current sobriety. Served at area for at least 1 year. Good knowledge of AA Traditions and Service Handbook</p> <p>Reports Intergroup Discussions and Decisions to their Area. Attends all Area Committee meetings. Visits Groups in their Area</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">General Service Conference</p> <p>Composed of 30 members – 16 GCSDs, 4 IG Secretaries, 4 Alcoholic Trustees, 3 Non-AA Trustees, 1 Secretary, 2 World Service Delegates</p> <p>The Group Conscience of AA in Ireland and guardian of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts</p> <p>Decides on best practice for the fellowship. Final authority for AA world services in Ireland. Guardianship of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Group Treasurer</p> <p>Responsible for all of Groups finances.</p> <p>12 months current sobriety preferred</p> <p>Pays bills & maintains prudent reserve. Passes surplus to Area. Maintains comprehensive accounts</p>		

Audio Potential

As part of the work of the subcommittee we also explored the use of podcasts, and other short form media to help attract members into service. There is nothing quite like hearing the glow in someone’s voice as they mention what AA, and service in AA has given back to them.

We think that there’s a place for short member shares about service and it’s benefits to both the member as well as AA as a whole to be offered for download, for example from the AA Ireland website.

As we worked on this, one of the subcommittee members struck upon a great idea – take the content of the Service Handbook and allow one of the GenAI tools to produce a podcast on the topic. The podcast is about 35 minutes long, and takes the form of a dialog between two presenters talking about Service Structure in Ireland. It takes a lot of the plain text and makes it a lot more comprehensible.

Please use QR code below to link to get Podcast version of “A Service Handbook for Ireland”



We present this as an offering for Conference, to see what can be done with modern tools –
URL: <https://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie/>

Further Notes

The subcommittee feels that the work done this year has been a good continuation to an effort which was begun by a similar subcommittee of Conference a few years ago. We feel that our contributions to this work are not complete, and we would like to continue these efforts, expanding on those ideas and approaches that we have presented in our report. We feel that encouraging members to be of service is vital to the long-term continuity of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland. Efforts undertaken to improve the enthusiasm towards service, we hope will be reflected in an increased measure of service being undertaken by the membership.

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Appendix E

Motions to Conference in Full

MOTION NO. 1

Over a number of years, the Service Handbook for Ireland (Service Handbook) has been amended and updated to reflect the decisions of the General Service Conference (Conference). This has led to a number of inconsistencies in the text. There are some seeming omissions and contradictions, some “musts” “may nots”. There is at least one error in a quotation from Conference approved literature. There are different titles given for the same type Subcommittee/service. It is arguable that there is a misunderstanding of the Twelve Concepts for World Service (Concepts); in particular the way Concept 1 and 2 are interpreted.

To avoid having Conference discuss individual motions on each purported error, omission or contradiction, separately, it is proposed that: -

“Conference review and amend the Service Handbook for A.A. in Ireland to eliminate as far as is possible any errors, contradictions, omissions or ambiguities in the document. The aim is to make the Handbook more cohesive, more readable, user friendly and relevant.”

There is a lack of historical information about how the General Service Conference of A.A. in Ireland was formed and the reasons for its formation. The need for a Conference for A.A. in Ireland, the legitimacy of the Conference for A.A. in Ireland, if valid ought to be included in any service manual or handbook for A.A. in Ireland. Prior to the formation of a General Service Conference for A.A. in Ireland what structure was in place? The process by which a Conference for A.A. in Ireland came about ought to be explained at the beginning of any new edition of the handbook.

The General Service Conference for Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland seems to have deviated from some of the procedures and principles described in the “A.A. Service Manual” which is original manual for General Service penned by Bill W. adopted by the World Service Conference. (The World Service Conference is effectively the Conference for A.A. U.S.A. and Canada) These original procedures and principles have been adopted by the General Service Conference of A.A. in G.B and The General Service Conference of A.A. in Australia. It could be argued that the deviations in practice by the GSC of A.A. in Ireland affect the unity of the fellowship as a whole. Research, consultations and discussions that must inevitably occur if this motion is adopted by Conference will give an opportunity for the Conference Committee to reflect on how it has evolved over the years and allow it to make changes in outlook and procedures where they are needed and/or desirable.

The fact that Conference is now looking at the structure of A.A. in Ireland to see if it is still fit for purpose and the discussion on the Young People in A.A. give an opportunity for the Handbook to be revamped from cover to cover. Monies that we contribute to Literature funds for A.A. in other countries could be used to give ourselves an up to date, comprehensive publication.

When the original Service Handbook for Ireland also known as ‘the green handbook’ was originally published, it was understood that it was to be read in conjunction with the World Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. Money was scarce at the time and the fellowship in Ireland was operating on a very tight budget with little or no reserve. The first edition was very skimpy and full of errors. Now after more than 40 years and now that the financial situation has improved, the time is right to produce a comprehensive General Service Manual/Handbook for Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland.

MOTION NO. 2

Production of videos of the Big Book and 12&12 in Irish Sign Language

Conference requests the Board to arrange for the production of videos in Irish Sign Language of the books “Alcoholics Anonymous” and “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions” to help carry the AA message of recovery to deaf alcoholics.

BACKGROUND

There is a need to produce basic AA literature in video / visual format in Irish Sign Language (ISL) for the benefit of deaf persons whose first language is ISL. Deaf persons communicate primarily, if not solely, by sign-language. As a rule, deaf persons have limited reading and writing skills in English: typically they not relate well, if at all, to written material. In practical terms, deaf persons do not have access to AA literature, including basic texts such as the Big Book and the 12&12. This is a major obstacle in efforts to carry the message to the deaf alcoholic.

ISL is the sign-language used by the majority of deaf persons in Ireland. It has statutory recognition under the Irish Sign Language Act 2017 (No. 40 of 2017). ISL is also recognised in Northern Ireland under the Good Friday Agreement, as is British Sign Language (BSL). These are separate and distinct languages and are both widely used in NI. Video versions of the Big Book and the 12&12 in BSL have already been produced by AA Great Britain..

At present there are only two items of AA literature available in ISL. These are –

- the video “The Road Back” (approx. 16 mins) produced by AA GSO Ireland and which has an insert with ISL interpretation, and
- the video “About Alcoholics Anonymous” (approx. 6 mins) produced by the Sober Signs Group in ISL only.

The lack of access to AA literature is additional to the separate, major obstacle met by deaf members who cannot, in practice, participate in AA meetings without the services of a sign-language interpreter.

HOW MANY DEAF MEMBERS / POTENTIAL MEMBERS

Definitive or reliable statistics in relation to the extent of deafness and alcoholism in Ireland are not available. Following are some published estimates.

It is estimated that a core population of **5,000 deaf persons in Ireland use ISL** as their primary language together with a further 40,000 hearing persons e.g. family members and persons working with deaf persons.

Alcoholism is considered to be a significant public health problem in Ireland. Some 52% of Irish adults are considered to be “hazardous drinkers” i.e. 70% males, 34% females. (*Health Research Board Ireland*). This would suggest that **some 2,000 / 2,500 deaf persons are hazardous drinkers** from among the estimated core population of 5,000 deaf persons using ISL.

Some 24% of Ireland’s population engage in “heavy episodic drinking” at least once a month (*Eurostat*). This would suggest that **some 960 deaf persons engage in heavy episodic drinking** from among the estimated core population of 5,000 deaf persons using ISL.

Some 15% of the Irish population over 15 has an “Alcohol Use Disorder” (AUD) (*Alcohol Action Ireland, 2019/2020*). This would suggest that **some 600 deaf persons have an acute alcohol use disorder** from among the estimated core population of 5,000 deaf persons using ISL.

Some 150,000 or 4% of Irish people over 15 years of age are classified as “dependent drinkers”. (*Alcohol Action Ireland, 2011, Camille Bello, “Overview of alcohol-related harm”*). This would suggest that **some 160 deaf persons are dependent drinkers** from among the estimated core population of 5,000 deaf persons using ISL.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Some 15,000 adults attend AA meetings in Ireland, out of a total adult population of approximately 4.1 million. This is a ratio of 1:273. This ratio would equate to attendance at AA meetings by about 18 deaf adults from among the estimated core population of 5,000 deaf persons using ISL. The potential membership is obviously much larger having regard to the extent of alcohol abuse and dependence outlined above.

COSTS

Expenditure on the production of videos in ISL would be a once-off capital expenditure to create a resource which would be permanently available. The cost of producing the two books in video format in ISL would depend largely on the chosen format and production methods. Production might best be done on a stage-by-stage basis.

The production of an ISL video of the Big Book with English sub-titles and an English voiceover is estimated to cost **€16.5k**. (It might be preferable, and less expensive, to use the recent, shorter Big Book in Plain Language.) A similar production of the 12&12 is estimated to cost **€13.5k**. A less expensive approach might be to produce a set of short, silent online videos showing only an ISL interpreter signing the text of the books without any English sub-titles or voiceover. It would not be essential to produce a physical DVD: it would be sufficient to have the videos available online.

Source: The cost-estimates quoted above were provided by the Irish Deaf Society (IDS) which routinely produces videos of material in ISL for the Deaf community. The estimates are considered to be a reliable indication of costs and are based on the production of professional, quality videos involving -

- (a) use of a studio with a 3-person production team (a camera operator, an ISL presenter and an ISL monitor to confirm appropriate translation), and
- (b) a post-production editor.

The estimates do not include VAT. The IDS is a registered charity. In the event of a decision to go ahead with the proposal, firm quotations could be requested from a number of video-production companies.

OTHER SIGN-LANGUAGES

The Big Book and the 12&12 are available in a number of sign-languages such as American Sign Language, Australian Sign Language and British Sign Language.

For example, the American Sign Language version of the Big Book is divided into 25 separate, short videos which can be viewed free-of-charge on You Tube. It is also available on DVD in a set of 4 discs on sale at price \$8 per set. It includes written subtitles in English and a voiceover in English.

Similarly, the British Sign Language version of the Big Book is available on DVD in a set of 4 discs on sale at price £8 per set. The BSL version of the 12&12 is available on DVD in a set of 3 discs on sale at £6 per set. Both sets include written subtitles in English together with an English voiceover.

MOTION NO. 3

Motion to the General Service Conference – AA Ireland

Motion to Align Post-Conference Service Opportunities with International AA Practice

Motion

“That the General Service Conference revise its current policy regarding former Conference Delegates and Trustees.

Upon completion of their service term at Conference or Trustee level, members would:

3. **Return to group-level service** and may, after that, progress again through the service structure (Group → Intergroup → Area → Conference → Trustee), as is the case in other countries.
4. **Alternatively**, Conference may consider a defined ‘cooling-off’ period of **three years** before a member can begin serving again in the wider service structure.

This change would align AA Ireland with international practice, retain experienced trusted servants, and help address the ongoing shortage of members available for service.”

Rationale:

1. Alignment with International Practice

- In **AA Great Britain** and **AA US**, members complete their Conference/Trustee term, return to group service, and remain eligible to progress back through the service structure in the future.
- There is **no stipulation** in these countries preventing a member from re-serving at Area, Intergroup, Conference, or Trustee level once their term has ended.
- Rotation is respected, but permanent exclusion is **not required**.

2. Retention of Valuable Experience

- Current AA Ireland policy results in members rotating out in their 40s or 50s, effectively ending their opportunity to contribute at national level for the rest of their AA life.
- Allowing re-entry after returning to group service (or after a three-year cooling-off period) ensures their skills and perspective are not permanently lost.

3. Encouraging Diversity of Age

- Members in mid-life often have significant professional and service experience to contribute. Losing them permanently creates an imbalance in representation and limits the diversity of voices at Conference.

4. Addressing Service Shortages

- AA Ireland has fewer members available to serve than larger fellowships.
- Enabling former Conference delegates and Trustees to serve again provides a vital solution to gaps at Area and national levels.

5. Maintaining Tradition and Concept Principles

- This proposal maintains the principle of **rotation** while also honouring the **right of participation** and **concept of trusted servants**.
- It prevents entrenchment in service but ensures that AA Ireland benefits from the experience of proven members when needed.

Background Material (Comparison)

- **AA Ireland (current)** – Members who complete a Conference or Trustee term must return to group-level service and may not re-enter service at Area, Intergroup, or Conference.
- **AA Great Britain** – Rotation is encouraged, but there is **no rule prohibiting re-service** at Area or Conference levels.
- **AA US (Service Manual)** – Emphasises rotation, but members may return to service structures; **no permanent exclusion** is stipulated.
- **Other fellowships (e.g. Continental Europe & Vienna Service guidelines)** – Term lengths are set (usually 3–4 years), and sobriety requirements are clear, but no permanent ban is imposed on further service.

MOTION NO. 4

Recommend Conference set up a Subcommittee to adopt a GSR Pamphlet similar to other Service Structures. The GB "Now that you are a GSR" is an example.

Subcommittee to tailor the Pamphlet to embrace our Service Structure in Ireland. This should be designed to empower our Members to find out what they belong to, explain the Service Structure in Ireland and to give helpful information on how the different parts of our Service Structure link in and work together from Group, Area, Intergroup, Conference, General Service Board and GSO.

We have a fantastic new GSR Pack launched in 2025, but it has missed the most important piece of information, outlining the roles, responsibilities and helpful tips on actually being a GSR at Group and Area level.

Since the role of a GSR is considered the most important role in Alcoholics Anonymous and considering the Fellowship has acknowledged the lack of members getting involved in Service it would be helpful therefore for a Subcommittee or current Subcommittee to put this together for our Fellowship.

This would help and encourage our members to understand this role better and get involved in Service. It would be appreciated therefore in the Spirit of Concept IX that Conference gives its approval to design and publish this.

MOTION NO. 5

Proposes the reinstatement of the 1989 General Service Conference decision that:

“Alcoholics Anonymous does not approve of specialist meetings that might exclude or appear to exclude any individual who has a desire to stop drinking”

Reason

This proposal is based on the belief that specialist meetings are contrary to the following AA Traditions:

Tradition 3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Specialist meetings imply that there may be additional requirements for membership beyond the desire to stop drinking, which contradicts this Tradition.

Tradition 5. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

AA is focussed on helping all alcoholics stay sober. Specialist meetings could give the impression that only certain categories of alcoholics are welcome, potentially excluding others who do not fit into those specific categories.

Tradition 10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Race, creed, colour, gender, sexual orientation, age, social status, professionalism and drug use are all considered outside issues. By creating specialist meetings, AA risks forming opinions on these issues, which could draw Alcoholics Anonymous into public controversy.

MOTION NO. 6

This “group requests that the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous undertakes a census of members of the fellowship within 12 months, following the 2026 meeting of Conference, as it is now over 15 years since the last such census was conducted. The group also requests that Conference establish a frequency for future censuses to be held. The group requests that the format of the census and future censuses be set out by Conference or a subcommittee of Conference.”

MOTION NO. 7

After emergency group conscience following motion agreed to be submitted

Oppose appointment of management position as attached on following grounds

- 4) Necessity of paid position
- 5) Procedure of appointment
- 6) Groups consultation of said position

MOTION NO. 8

Following a Group Conscience meeting, we wish to object to the GSBAA action of employing an outside agency to advertise to the general public, the position of a paid new General Secretary of GSBAA. Ireland.

Contrary to Memorandum and Articles of Association of GSBAA (Company) this was not done with the approval from General Service Conference of Ireland.

Since AA was first incorporated in 1978 the position of secretary to the GSBAA has not been a paid position, and in particular since 2014 when it was given charitable status the position was not a paid one.

AA's traditions make clear 2 principles.

- a) Our leaders are but trusted servants they do NOT govern; and
- b) The principle of rotation which requires our trusted servants to rotate out of office.

Making the position of Secretary to the GSBAA a paid one offends both of these principles. As well as not complying with tradition 7.

Alcoholics Anonymous is funded by the fellowship. It declines outside contributions.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association in 1978 when it was first incorporated made specific provision for financial accountability to the General Service Conference of AA in Ireland.

The only income to GSBAA is table money from alcoholics. Surely the Fellowship has a say in this.



National PI Subcommittee

I. Context – the role of the National PI Subcommittee

The National PI Subcommittee aims to establish how we, working in cooperation with AA groups, areas, and intergroups, can effectively carry the AA message at a national level to the alcoholic who still suffers in the community.

We seek to increase public awareness of AA's programme of sobriety, ensuring it is freely available and accessible to all who seek help.

II. A summary of our work in 2025 and focus for 2026

1. Developing PI resources and capacity

1.1 Supporting PI capacity building – presenting to professional communities

A National PI Subcommittee focuses on connecting with professional stakeholder communities nationally. In connecting with professional communities, PI often seeks to meet and present about AA Ireland to a target professional audience.

A need was identified for a general PowerPoint slide deck that any group / PI representative could use in their local areas to present key information about how AA works to professional communities.

The National PI Subcommittee created a refreshed PowerPoint presentation (suitable for a 15/20-minute short presentation slot), which has been tested at local PI talks for professional communities.

[Click here to access a flipbook version of the new presentation slide deck.](#)

1.2 PI resources for AA groups

Following on from our poster design in 2025, we are now, based on local group feedback, in the process of linking with GSO to create A5 flyers for the current poster selection. The smaller size A5 will be more practical for group members to position and leave in community hubs and on noticeboards.

We are exploring the potential for members to download this year's posters (both A4 and A5) directly from the AA website and print and customise them to promote meeting events locally.



2. Outreach

2.1 Professional community outreach

In 2025, the National PI focused specifically on outreach and connection with diverse national bodies of relevant professionals. To outreach, we identified and contacted the following bodies:

- Irish Association of Social Workers.
- Royal College of Surgeons.
- Gardai Training College (Templemore).
- National Ambulance Service.
- Irish College of GPs.
- Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The Community Engagement team at the Royal College of Surgeons was keen to connect with AA Ireland when a departmental opportunity arose.

Other stakeholder contacts will be revisited in 2026, with other avenues planned for exploration (e.g., trade unions, nursing and national mental health bodies).

2.2. Developing connections with the Mater Hospital

The Mater Hospital (Dublin) contacted National PI to develop connections and to profile AA Ireland's work at their Addictions Recovery Day on 12th September 2025.

AA Ireland hosted a full information stand with other organisations to highlight the range of help available to support recovery. The AA Ireland stand was organised and manned by Leinster delegates. Gratitude to Robbie and his team in Leinster for all of the work in representing AA Ireland at this important event.

2.3 Building our government relationships in NI



In June 2024, led by Ulster members, AA Ireland organised an awareness-raising event for the NI Assembly in Stormont. In 2025, the National PI Subcommittee requested a meeting with the Minister for Justice to follow up on Stormont events.

In October 2025, National PI Chair and Ulster Intergroup members Brian and Kenny met with Minister Long, Naomi Long, and members of the Department of Justice policy team.

We aimed to raise awareness of AA's work and identify ways to strengthen relationships and make new connections within the justice system. Topics discussed with the Minister included:

- PI information to prisoners and staff; attendance at open days, information in prisons and induction packs for people entering prison.
- Clearance for AA members to work in prisons.
- The impact of one-to-one work AA could have on people in detention.
- Creating more links with AA to support prisoners' transition back to the community and access to stronger support networks on release (aligning with the NI Substance Abuse Strategy, 2024).
- Connecting with opportunities to present and raise awareness about AA in the PSNI police training college.
- Creating more structured pathways for AA to support the work of the probation service for people with a history of dependency.
- The potential to provide more AA information and links with justice system staff (i.e. linking specifically with the Police Rehabilitation and Training Trust).
- Using the Wellbeing Hub in Maghaberry Prison to promote AA information and resources.

- AA is taking part in future open information days in prisons.

All points were welcomed and seen as very valid. The Minister said that she would bring these suggestions to both the Chief Constable and the Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service, Beverly Wall.

Tim, from the Minister's team, said that they would follow up with us once they had raised the issues with the Chief Constable and Director General.



3. Media development

3.1 Broadcast media campaigns in 2025

Identifying and responding to media opportunities to build an understanding of what AA does to reach more people remains a core focus of our national PI work.

The One Minute to Change Your Life animated film available on our AA website was screened on television for two weeks in late December/early January.

This year, we extended our broadcast campaigns and coverage to encompass both TV and radio in NI and to ROI. Campaigns ran on UTV, Virgin Media, Today FM, and U105. A breakdown of the number of broadcast spots is shown below:

- Virgin: 54 spots
- UTV: 32 Spots
- Today FM: 32 spots
- U105: 52 spots

An aim for 2026 is to diversify PI work to target more print media for feature articles.

3.2 AA's work in developing a social media presence

AA GB at their 2025 Conference has had a dedicated focus on exploring the use of social media. Building a social media presence for AA Ireland remains a core focus for the National PI Subcommittee in Ireland. We see it as an essential part of carrying the message as we work to enhance National PI.

We have established links with the leads in AA GB's social media development team. In 2026. We hope that the collaboration and exchanges with AA GB and AA Ireland will be mutually beneficial as we move forward on social media to expand and diversify our media channels.

3.3 80th anniversary celebrations in 2026

The National PI subcommittee is working with the Board to develop targeted PI initiatives for 2026, this milestone year.

The National PI Subcommittee has contacted the President of Ireland’s office to explore the possibility of a group reception event for AA Ireland on the 80th anniversary (this work is in progress at the time of this report submission).

PROPOSED UPDATES TO PI FOLDER

1. Service structure for PI – explanation of the PI structure (Group PI committee, Area PI committee, Intergroup, National PI.)

<https://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie/product/circles-of-love/>

2. Template for recording PI contacts/ organisations to keep a record of poster distribution, contact details etc

ORGANISATION Name/ Type	ADDRESS	WEBSITE/EMAIL/TEL NO/ Contact Name	POSTER DELIVERED Y/N/ Notes	Comments Talk Pamphlets
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3. List of organisations Health, Education, Community, Voluntary, Etc for poster distribution, engaging with, providing talks etc
4. Include Guidelines for PI events such as
 - Open Public Information meetings
 - Day of Gratitude
 - PI Service workshops
 - Talks/ presentations to professionals/ organisations
5. Guidelines for Open meeting posters and Open Public Information meetings – poster templates made available to edit on website
6. Open meeting and Open Public Information meeting scripts to be updated
Remove or reduce “what AA does not do” as this is seen as negative and not necessary?
7. Refresh pamphlets and poster information- list pamphlets available for PI
8. How to order PI resources (posters, pamphlets, display rack) from GSO
9. Areas/ groups to have Pop up banners and tablecloth for events
10. How to post Open meetings and Open Public Information meetings on the AA i.e. website
11. AA group/ Area/ Intergroup PI convenors to use official AA email address for correspondence with organisations and for AA business
12. Presentation slides for “Cooperating with the professional communities”; flip book style?
13. “PI and You” (PI and the fellowship)- flip book style on website
14. Presentation slides for Cooperating with the Professional Community
15. Anonymity – clearer information and guidance
16. Media guidelines – review and update

17. Letters/ email introduction for organisations, schools etc

18. Examples of AA press release for media, radio etc to be reviewed and updated

Further suggestions

Replace photos page 14 with new images of posters

. Remove image Page 24.

. Condense What AA does not do into a small paragraph and use the condensed version for the AA Open Public Information Meetings and Open Meetings script.

. Page 35 Replace CSO Office with just the NI Telephone number

. Page 39 Garda Vetting . Check is this section up to date.

. Page 42 Put in new Professionals Pamphlet.

Remove CSO Office in Belfast from Page 42.

Professionals Pamphlet put in Page 43.

. Insert Business Card into literature section.

DRAFT

Appendix G

Young People's Liaison Officers (YPLO)

National Report – Conference 2026

Overview:

Over the past year, the primary focus of Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO) service nationally has been the development, clarification, and consolidation of roles and responsibilities relating to young people's service in Alcoholics Anonymous Ireland.

This work has been carried out collaboratively across provinces, and informed by feedback, experience, and emerging needs in other areas.

The guiding principle throughout has been that young people's service is about service, not age, and about creating clear, welcoming, and sustainable pathways for members to become involved. The younger aspect of the service simply opens a space for younger members to find their way into service through identification and their peers, thus experiencing the same benefits as all in the full experience of the three pillars of AA. It also serves as a very important solution to the ever-growing problem of encouraging members to take on service positions.

Structure and Alignment

The YPLO service structure has always been intended to operate in a manner similar to Public Information (PI):

- Groups may have one or more young people's representatives as needed.
- These representatives are supported at area level through a Young Person's Area Rep (YPAR).
- YPLOs act as a coordinating and liaison role at provincial and national level. This structure has been reaffirmed and clarified through the work undertaken this year. There are a growing number of area reps working at group level, particularly in Leinster.

Key Work Undertaken (2025–2026):

The predominant body of work this year has been the refining of the recommended roles and responsibilities for:

- Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO)
- Young Person's Area Rep (YPAR)

This included:

- Reviewing existing guidelines and establishing what was needed.
- Producing clearer, more practical role descriptions aligned with the 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts, and the Service Handbook.
- Ensuring the focus remained on encouragement, inclusion, and service participation. This work was progressed through focused subcommittee discussion with the Delegates and Connaught Trustee, as well as the area reps and previous YPLO's to gather information on what was needed.

National Developments

- During the year, a full national rotation of YPLOs occurred.
- As of December, a new Ulster YPLO was elected, resulting in a full national panel of YPLOs across all provinces.
- The current YPLO panel brings a strong level of commitment, a broad age range, and with over 30 years of combined sobriety.

The panel is now working toward:

- o Supporting areas in establishing and strengthening YPAR roles.
- o Bringing area reps together with a shared understanding of service structures and role responsibilities.
- o Encouraging consistent, welcoming approaches to service participation. Learning and Observations

A recurring theme identified throughout the year is the importance of welcome and encouragement in service. It has been noted that members- younger and older, can sometimes experience uncertainty or discomfort and sometimes even a lack of support when approaching service. Strengthening clarity around roles, alongside a conscious emphasis on welcome, is viewed as essential to sustaining participation and enthusiasm in service.

Conclusion

This year's work has laid a solid foundation. With a full national YPLO panel now in place and clear role recommendations developed, the focus can move toward implementation, support at area level, and continued encouragement of members into service.

The page following is the YPLO subcommittee's recommendations to conference on the roles and responsibilities for the role of YPLO and the introduction of the title of the role for the area reps (YPAR):

Young Person's Liaison Officer (YPLO)

Purpose:

The Young Person's Liaison Officer (YPLO) seeks to encourage the involvement of younger members in service. The YPLO should be familiar with the various service positions and responsibilities throughout the service structure, and will maintain awareness of vacancies at all levels, sharing this information with Young Person's Area Representatives (YPARs). The YPLO acts as a central point of contact and a representative for YPAR's and the information they gather. They attend their provincial Intergroup committee and provide a report on their activities and the activities of the YPARs they represent. They liaise closely with Public Information Committees at both Intergroup and national levels, where appropriate.

Suggested Term: Two years.

Voting Rights: The YPLO is an Intergroup representative and has equal voting rights with other Intergroup representatives.

Qualifications:

- Found sobriety at the age of thirty or younger.
- A suggested minimum of three years' continuous sobriety.
- At least one year's service as a GSR or YPAR.
- A working knowledge of the Twelve Steps, Traditions.
- Familiarity with the AA Service Handbook for Ireland.

Additional Notes:

As the YPLO role functions at the provincial convenor level, it is recommended that Areas elect Young Person's Area Representatives (YPAR) to support and extend the reach of this service.

Young Person's Area Representative (YPAR)

Purpose:

The primary function of the Young Person's Area Representative (YPAR) is to encourage and support young people to get involved in AA service. YPARs attend their Area meetings, and form a subcommittee of their respective area. This subcommittee is responsible to the area they serve.

YPAR's remain informed of service vacancies within the Groups and Area and communicate with the YPLO and other Area YPARs in their province. They may liaise with the Area Public Information Committee where appropriate. YPARs also maintain a contact list of younger members willing to participate in school talks, prison service, open public meetings, and 12th Step calls, they share this contact with their YPLO and other YPAR's.

Suggested Term: Minimum of one year, with the option to extend to two years.

Qualifications:

- Found sobriety at the age of thirty or younger.
- A suggested minimum of two years' continuous sobriety.
- Must be an active member of their delegating Group.
- A working knowledge of the Twelve Steps and Traditions, and familiarity with the AA Service Handbook for Ireland.

Appendix H

AA Conduct & Safety

Safety is an important issue within A.A. — one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions to help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship

Every A.A. member attending an AA Meeting or event, or participating in service in the fellowship, has a right to feel safe and protected at all times.

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live, or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.” — Tradition One (Long Form)

A.A. and Safety

Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society within which we live. Problems found in the world can also make their way into A.A. As we strive to share in a safe environment whether at in-person meetings or virtually, alcoholics can focus on maintaining sobriety and the group can fulfil its primary purpose — to carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The group should be accountable for members safety and protection.

There is no government within A.A. and no central authority to control or direct its members, but we do share the experience of groups and members in applying A.A. principles to issues that have arisen. As expressed in Tradition Two and Tradition Nine, it is through an informed group conscience that individual members and A.A. groups find solutions to group matters as they relate to safety. Service entities such as areas, and intergroup/conference are available to help provide A.A. services and shared experiences. When concerns about conduct arise, they should be addressed through an informed group conscience and guided by traditions. The length or quality of a member’s sobriety does not exempt anyone from responsibility for their behaviour, nor should it influence whether the concern is considered.

Common sense and experience suggest that A.A. membership does not grant immunity from the law or local regulations and that being at an A.A. meeting does not put anyone beyond the jurisdiction of law enforcement. As individuals, A.A. members are also accountable to the laws of the land. Neither our traditions nor concepts offer any AA member special exemption from the law, which all of us as members of society have to adhere to. Calling the proper authorities (Gardai/PSNI) does not go against any A.A. Traditions. Anonymity is not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behaviour.

Through the group conscience process, many groups have established guidelines regarding when it may be appropriate to call authorities to handle a given situation. Experience has shown that it can be necessary to contact the authorities immediately rather than wait for the next scheduled group conscience meeting. Situations that groups have faced include, but are not limited to, violence, intimidation, harassment, coercion, racism, discrimination, threats, embezzlement, theft of property etc. While A.A. members and groups can be caring and supportive to those affected, we are not professionals trained to handle such situations. Gardai/PSNI or other professionals help may be necessary. AA members do not have the authority to investigate allegations of criminal behaviour. Individual members should contact the appropriate authorities if they feel that their safety is at risk.

AA Safety and Unity

Situations that groups need address; to maintain unity include threats of violence, bullying, sexual harassment or stalking; financial coercion; racial discrimination, sexual orientation, or gender intolerance; and feeling pressured to adopt a particular point of view relating to medical treatments and/or medications. Keep in mind there may be experiences/harassments that originate from group interactions but that may continue outside of meetings, these experiences can affect whether someone feels safe to return to the group.

Dealing with Disruptions

While most groups operate with a healthy balance of spontaneity and structure, others have experienced situations that can threaten group unity and challenge the safety of the group and its members. One such situation is a disruptive person whose offensive language/behaviour inhibits the group's ability to carry out its primary purpose. Members exhibiting such behaviour's may be asked by the group officers to stop attending that particular meetings for a period of time. In-person and virtual groups dealing with these kinds of disruptions make such a request to preserve the common welfare of the group and to maintain A.A. unity, recognizing that no A.A. group can bar any individual from equal membership in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Possible Helpful Suggestions

Safety is a topic within A.A. that groups and members can address. Developing workable solutions to help keep meetings safe can be based on the principles of A.A. In discussions about safety, keep the focus on our primary purpose, our common welfare, and placing principles before personalities.

- Predatory behaviours and unwanted sexual advances are in conflict with carrying the A.A. message of recovery and with A.A. principles.
- Most experienced members suggest that men work with men and women work with women particularly in early sponsorship relationships to avoid possible complications. (Questions & Answers On Sponsorship Page15)
- A.A. does not provide medical advice or detox services; it has no opinion on outside issues, including medication or treatment. These are best discussed with qualified professionals.
- The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. Groups and members strive to create a safe environment for the alcoholic who still suffers.
- If safety concerns arise, individuals can speak with a sponsor, members of the group, a trusted friend and/or a professional to address the concern.
- Service entities, such as areas, intergroup/conference, are available to help provide A.A. services and shared experience. While all groups and entities in A.A. are autonomous they are linked in service and unity. There is no government within A.A. Our leaders are but trusted servants guided by love and the group conscience. But we do share our experience, strength and hope.
- In all our group and service discussions about safety and conduct members are encouraged to listen to the minority view and to apply the right of appeal.
- Groups and members can seek shared experience from areas, intergroup or GSO remembering that AA does not offer rules or penalties

Appendix I

General Service Conference Delegates Reports

CONNAUGHT CONFERENCE DELEGATES REPORT FOR CONFERENCE 2025

Mayo Area Report to Conference 2025

Mayo Area are struggling at the moment to get members to attend. We tried different approaches to the problem but nothing seemed to work. At the moment we have no secretary or PI convenor, we got a new treasurer last year and he is being 12 stepped into his new role. Very few people are interested in doing service.

Our Mayo Area meetings take place every 8 weeks in the Parish Centre Castlebar, Upper Chapel Street. There are 30 groups in Mayo holding 55 physical meetings and 24 on-line. Meetings are well attended with a lot of young people and older members.

Hope House Open Public meeting on Sunday mornings is going great, big crowds attending (11am) Enquires to AA groups Ireland. 2 AA speakers and 1 Al-anon speaker. F26V967.

We held 2 Open Public meetings and a Day of Gratitude this year with over 200 people attending the events. Mayo area had no convention this year due to no proper venues been available.

Mayo Area contributed €16,000 to Connaught Intergroup.

Doctor surgeries and Libraries/Garda Barracks, Hospitals, Clinics, are updated with posters on a regular basis. 12th step work as part of ongoing phone service is been done also.

Groups still finding it difficult getting people to do service.

John G. GSCD.

Galway Area Report to Conference 2024

Meetings

Galway Area meetings are held every six weeks in the Galway Bay Hotel and online. Numbers in attendance of Area varies with many groups not represented by GSRs, average attendance ranges from 12 to 20 people.

The majority of physical groups within Galway Area are operating well and attendance fluctuating. Some new groups have been set up in the last year and some others have ceased. Online groups within Galway Area are, also continuing to receive good numbers.

Public Information

The PI Convenor position has been filled recently and is now trying to establish a committee with current Area members working together to cover the position and help in whatever capacity is required.

On September 13th, Galway Area held a Connect Day, in an attempt to promote some Unity within the Area and a chance for members to meet persons in service in Galway Area. Around 100 people came to the day and feedback was most people had an enjoyable day and would like to see more days like it.

Advertisement for AA groups in Galway is by local newspaper and social media platforms.

Communications

Subscribers are receiving notifications by email, on meeting changes, updates, local events such as open public meetings and conventions and other relevant AA information. OPM's are via radio, press and social media platforms.

Group Insurance

Group Insurance is now handled by Connacht Intergroup. The current cost to each group is €70 per annum.

Phone Service

Galway Area continues to provide a localised phone service via a mobile phone **085 753 7100** which is publicised by PI committee. This is manned from 12 noon to 10pm 7 days a week. The **Phone Convenor** redirects all calls to the next responder for the coming week every Sunday. Persons wishing to do phone service are required to view a twenty-minute video plus a twenty-minute Power Point Presentation briefing on the 'Dos', 'Don'ts' and guidelines for safe and ethical phone service, before they are placed on the panel of responders. Responders are strongly advised to remove their personal or business identification from their personal mobile greeting (that would identify them or break their anonymity) before having the published number forwarded to their phone.

The total cost to Area for telephone is €180pa.

Analysis of calls: Yearly Telephone Report 2025

Meeting Information 19

Member Query 1

Help Self - 12 Step 6

Help for Family - 12 Step 3

Help for Friend - 12 Step 3

Al – Anon 0

Other 11

Total calls for the year 43

Positions – 1 Galway Intergroup Delegate position available.

Convention

The Galway Area held its annual convention in the Galway Bay Hotel from 2nd to 4th January 2026. Attendance was with good with 563 members registering. There was a packed public meeting on Friday night. Approximately 130 people attended the Early Bird meeting so approx. 40 more than previous year. All meetings were well attended, themed marathon meetings running concurrently starting on the hour and half hour. Workshops, literature, and entertainment events were provided with large participation in all areas.

Advertising of the OPM at the convention and AA generally was published in local newspapers, and on social media platforms.

A full report will be submitted to next Area meeting by the Convention Committee at the March 2026 Area meeting.

Adrienne

Sligo North Leitrim

This is my first Conference Delegate Report, having taken up this role in July 2025. It is my great privilege to serve in this position. The Groups within Sligo North Leitrim continue to work well with face to face meetings and three online meetings. Attendance at Area meetings were low, but there were three new members at the last Area meeting which was reassuring. We are still looking

at ways to encourage all groups to send up to four members to Area meetings. It seems there is a reluctance to get into service once members get sober. For me, service has added a huge amount to my sobriety. Members are the vital building blocks of AA.

The prison meetings in Loughan House are now run by the Fermanagh Group of AA and appear to be well attended.

The phone service is up and running, but is due to be reviewed shortly and a Phone Convenor is being actively sought. Other positions available at Intergroup are PI and Secretary

As Area Representative to Connaught Intergroup (CIG) and a member of the organising committee for the 2025 All Ireland Convention, I saw first-hand, the teamwork and co-operation between all the groups involved. The feedback was very heartening. It was truly fellowship at its best.

Louise B was nominated by Sean C at the Intergroup Meeting in July 2025, this was unanimously approved. The focus of our new YPLO, is to encourage each area to select an Area YPAR (Young Peoples Area Rep). The purpose of YPLO and YPAR remains to encourage young people to get involved in service and fellowship and carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. As a member of Connaught Intergroup and Conference Delegate, I liaise closely with YPLO delegate in supporting each other in our roles. During 2025 the YPLO role has become more consolidated thanks to Louise and her groups hard work.

Most of the groups in Sligo North Leitrim have paid their Insurance. Where more than one group meet in the same building by agreement each group take it in turn to pay the insurance for the year.

PI was a concern in 2025, but hopefully, from our next area meeting in February we will have two new PI members, whose names will be confirmed then.

I wish to thank all the members of Intergroup and Area for their service in 2025-2026. I look forward to attending the 2026 Conference in Dundalk. May we all be Happy, Joyous and Free together in Fellowship.

Yours in service

Sheelagh McN

LEINSTER CONFERENCE DELEGATES REPORT FOR CONFERENCE 2025

Overall Summary

The Leinster Intergroup is comprised of 14 Areas, two of which are amalgamated (Areas 3&4. 6 of the 14 Areas in Leinster are within the Dublin County bounds. 5 Areas meet via Zoom, 7 Areas meet in person, and 1 Area is a hybrid meeting. 6 of the Areas meet on a bi-monthly basis, while the other 7 meet monthly. Those Areas meeting bi-monthly always have the option to call more regular meetings should the need arise. The primary intent of bi-monthly meetings is to try to encourage better attendance.

Until this January's 2025 Leinster Intergroup's meeting, Leinster has been operating with 3 GCSDs, who had distributed attendance of the Areas between themselves, and rotate attendance at the Areas between each delegates ensure that Delegates attend all Areas in their service as Conference Delegate. Delegates maintain a shared calendar of Area meetings, which keeps us aware of the schedule and cadence of Area meetings, as well as to deal with absences. Most Areas maintain a WhatsApp group for distributing information between the Groups at Area, and their currently assigned Conference Delegate, as well as for scheduling (or rescheduling) area meetings.

Overall, Area meeting attendance is mixed – some have good attendance, with excellent feedback from most of the groups in their Area, while others are struggling with attendance and feedback. Poor attendance by Groups has a knock-on effect of fewer people to engage in service, which leads to burn-out of those who remain. Several Areas have reported officers having to extend their terms beyond the usual duration to avoid the loss of continuity of service. Efforts have been made with those Area committees to attempt to improve attendance, through various means. One of the most successful methods engaged was having Area committee members attend the individual Groups and make a direct and in-person appeal to the Group members and Secretaries.

One of the biggest problems being reported by many Areas, and Groups within the Areas is Service roles being left unfulfilled at Group and Area level. The lack of Group service leads to a lack of Group representation at Area in the form of GSRs. With fewer members performing service at Area, it impacts a lot of the works that would typically be done by the Area committees, such as Service Workshops, Group outreach and Public Information, which are all vital to carrying the message to the suffering alcoholic.

Representation of Areas at Intergroup is also poor – there is often only 1 or 2 representatives from any one Area and several have no attendees.

Rotation of service at Leinster Intergroup has taken place for several roles – we have a new Treasurer, Tony H. We have a new Prison Convener, Roy M, and we have a new YPLO, Sarah C. Our Phone Service Convener, Mal McD has completed his service and has been working behind the scenes to find someone to take up the role. We have also had the election of 3 new Conference Delegates (Andy D, Anya S, Orla H), following the rotation of two prior Conference Delegates (Deirdre S and Robbie Mac), and the absence of the fourth. This leaves us with one Conference Delegate with multiple years of Delegate experience (Jenny K).

Phone Service

The Leinster phone service is spread across the Areas in a pair-wise manner, except for Area 11. The phones alternate Areas every 6 months. The phone service is an out of hour one, in operation on evenings during the weekdays, and all day at the weekend.

Our Leinster Telephone Liaison Officer, Mal McD, completed his service in November. While we have yet to bring a replacement on-board, Mal has continued to assist in the background to ensure that the service does not falter. This was important over the Christmas break, where the service hours were extended to cover the closure of GSO during that period.

During the year, all the documentation in the phone responder's pack was renewed and brought up to date. One of the most critical elements of this is the directory of AA meetings in the province, which is used to guide callers to a meeting near them.

All phone responders undertake a small bit of training to ensure that they answer the phone in an appropriate manner. Part of the training is to ensure that responders are sensitive in their responses to the callers, as it may be a caller's first interaction with AA.

Responders indicate that the phones have been busy throughout the year, with an estimated 35 calls per month being responded to.

Young Persons

We elected a new Leinster YPLO, Sarah C. The Leinster YPLO continues to work with the various Areas to encourage them to nominate a Young Persons' Area Rep.

These members attend meetings in their Area to encourage young people into service. This has led to an increase in younger members taking up service, which is a great sign for the fellowship's long-term continuity. The young person's subcommittee of intergroup is growing and speaks to a growing number of young people coming into recovery.

Prison Service

We have recently elected a new Leinster Prison Service Convenor, Roy M, who has worked hard to improve the operation of the service across all the prisons in Leinster.

The Leinster Prison Service consistently holds 8 meetings per week, with efforts underway to increase that to 9.

Access to some prisons can be withdrawn due to situations such as lockdowns. We continue to work with the other prisons when those situations occur. We have found that a dedicated AA coordinator for each prison helps a lot, as they know the prisoners, the officers, locations of literature, and vetting needs.

There is currently a pool of 70 sponsors a month to fulfil these meeting obligations, and there is a continual cycle of people being Garda vetted to take up service, as this vetting expires after 5 years.

The Prison Service held a very successful open meeting in the Training Unit during the year, as well as a one-day event in the Midlands Prison, where the AA sponsors took inmates through the steps in the book.

We continue to appeal to members at the Group and Area level to get on board with Prison Service – it is of huge benefit to the inmates who otherwise would be without the support and assistance of AA meetings.

Public Information

Denis T continued his work as Leinster Public Information Convenor, encouraging people at Area to support the service. Posters continue to be distributed to Groups, and school talks have resumed, some of which are detailed in the specific area details below.

The PI Service has worked with the Mater Hospital to bring an Open Meeting for patients in the recovery unit, the first of which took place in October 2025.

The PI Service has also worked with McKee Barracks and supported their first Open Public AA meeting, which took place in October 2025 also. It is hoped that this will lead to more Open Public meetings in the Barracks in the future.

Area 1 (Louth)

Area 1 meets in Drogheda every two months, with about ¾ of the Groups from the Area in attendance.

Meetings are reported to be running well, with quite a few newcomers, with quantities of meetings increasing slightly over the year. They report intermittent issues getting members to be of service.

An Open Public Information meeting was held in a Hotel in Drogheda in October, which was well attended.

There are ongoing concerns with non-alcoholic identifying people attending AA meetings in Drogheda. Efforts continue to be made to encourage those people to limit their sharing to Alcohol and how it related to their Alcoholism.

Area 2 (Meath)

Area 2 meets every month in Navan, with a typical attendance of 8 groups from the Area in attendance.

Meetings in the Area are reported to be running well, with, unfortunately a few closures due to a lack of people willing to be of service.

There is a regular Public Open meeting taking place every month in Trim.

The annual Day of Gratitude was held in early January 2026. While the weather was cold, attendance was good, and the day went off well.

Area 3&4 (Westmeath, Offaly, Laois & Longford)

Area 3&4 meet every 2 months, online.

There are about 27 groups in this Area, however only about 5 groups attend the Area meetings. Efforts have been made to increase this by contacting each of the Groups to urge them to attend, emphasizing that the meeting is online, and does not require travel to attend.

Of the groups in attendance, they report meetings going reasonably well with some variation throughout the year.

The Tullamore group held an Open evening in October.

Area 5 (Kildare)

Area 5 meets every 2 months in Kildare.

Approximately 9 of the 19 Groups in Area attend these meetings.

Efforts are being made to arrange Service days to promote service across the fellowship in Area 5.

A few new Groups have formed in the Area over the last year, to meet the needs of members in locations that have previously been poorly served.

Area 6 (Dublin North-West Inner City – Ballymun, Blanchardstown, Castleknock, Clonsilla, Corduff, Finglas, Grangegorman, Huntstown, Stoneybatter)

Area 6 meets every 2 months in Stoneybatter and online (hybrid).

Of the 20 Groups in the Area, only 5 attend Area with any regularity. Of those Groups in attendance, most report good attendance across their meetings, while one Group, unfortunately is struggling due to a change of venue causing a precipitous reduction in attendance.

One of the Groups has committed to increasing their number of Open Public meetings to increase awareness of AA in the community.

Area 7 (Dublin North-East City & County – Artane, Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Bayside, Sutton, Coolock, Dollymount, Donabate, Donnycarney, East Wall, Fairview, Howth, Lusk, Malahide, North Strand, Raheny, Rush, Santry Skerries, Sutton, Swords)

Area 7 meets monthly, online.

Attendance at the Area meetings is relatively poor with 4-5 groups in regular attendance. Efforts are being undertaken to improve attendance by letter and direct appeal.

The Area holds two dances throughout the year – Halloween and New Years. The purpose is to have a safe and sober place to meet and enjoy the season. 2025's dances were well attended, and members reported a fun experience.

As the CMH is in the catchment of Area 7, there is a subcommittee to manage the meeting being held there. Members who attend need to undertake an in-person training session, as well as receive Garda clearance.

Area 8 (Dublin South-West City – Ballycragh, Ballyfermot, Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Rathcoole, Ronanstown, Tallaght)

Area 8 meets every month, online. 4-6 groups attend the Area committee meeting regularly. Both the online and in-person meetings in the Area are well attended, with no notable events in the last few months.

Discussions are underway to hold a Service workshop on a monthly basis to increase awareness in service opportunities.

Area 9 (Dublin South Inner City – Inchicore, Marrowbone Lane, Ranelagh, Rathmines, Rialto, Swords)

Area 9 meets every month, In-person in Molesworth Street.

Attendance at the Area 9 meeting has been improving due to efforts to reach individual Groups.

Attendance at meetings in Area 9 has been consistent.

There is a Sign Language meeting held in Area 9 every second Saturday. A sign language interpreter is present at the meeting, as this is necessary for deaf members to be able to participate in the meeting fully.

Area 9 ran a Service Day in February, to appeal to members to perform service, as well as an Open Day in November.

Area 9 is responsible for Open Meetings in St. Pats and have made regular appeals for members to chair the meeting.

Area 10 (Dublin South Central City – Ballinteer, Ballyroan, Churchtown, Clonskeagh, Donnybrook, Drimnagh, Dundrum, Kimmage, Knocklyon, Rathfarnham, Rathgar, Templeogue, Terenure)

Area 10 meets in-person in Templeogue every month. 11 groups of the 18 are represented at Area. One meeting closed, due to poor attendance. Area 10 carries the message to the clients of the Rutland Centre. These meetings are held with the cooperation of management at the Centre. The structure of these meetings is undertaking an inventory, as the current facilitator reported that they had inherited the previous structure and wanted to ensure that it worked well.

Area 10 has attempted to hold service workshops in conjunction with another Area. The difficulty in coordinating the effort leads to the feeling that shared efforts like this may be more trouble than they're worth, so the effort will be continued by Area 10 directly.

Area 11 (Dublin South-East – Belfield, Blackrock, Cabinteely, Dun Laoghaire, Foxrock, Glasthule, Kilmacud, Monkstown, Rathgar, Shankill, Stepside, Stillorgan Road)

Area 11 meets in-person in Glasthule, bi-monthly.

Up to 12 groups in attendance of the 15 groups in Area at the Area meetings.

Some groups in the Area are struggling due to low attendance. Several meetings have been able to be listed in the directory, thanks to the changes approved at Conference 2025. The increased visibility of these meetings has helped them reach more members.

Area 12 (Wicklow)

Area 12 meets online, every month.

Area Meeting attendance is good; however some groups are sadly not attending.

There are 14 Groups in the Area, one of which is new, and going strong.

The monthly Open Meeting sometimes needs support, which has been requested.

Area 12 is planning a Service Workshop to help encourage members into service.

It feels like Area 12 has been renewed and is growing.

Area 13 (Carlow/Kilkenny)

Area 13 meets in-person, in Carlow, bi-monthly.

Some 6 of the 13 Groups attend the Area Meeting.

Many groups report difficulties encouraging members into service roles. It has improved slightly with service sponsors encouraging people to take up service positions.

Groups are seeing a regular influx of newcomers at their meetings.

Responsibility of organizing meetings in Cuan Mhuire Athy is shared with Area 5, through a panel of speakers who rotate service.

Area 14 (Wexford)

Area 14 meets online, every month.

The Area meeting is reasonably well attended, with regular requests to groups to encourage greater attendance.

Rotation is encouraged, with caretakers standing in for roles, to avoid breaking of service.

Group Meetings at Area are well attended, and run smoothly, with most service positions filled.

Area 14 held a Convention in Wexford on the weekend of the 21st-23rd Feb 2025. The convention was well attended by AA Members and Al-Anon Members, with themed marathon meetings over the weekend, as well as an Open Public Meeting on the Saturday Evening, and a disco on Saturday night. The event was well received and had both national and international attendees. An Open Meeting was held in Gorey in September.

The Kerlogue Group continues to be the point of contact for the Aiseiri Treatment Centre.

There has been an issue with a member causing disruption in multiple Group meetings throughout the Area. The Area committee has been helping facilitate the response at the Group level, keeping the Groups informed and allowing them to act in a manner that reflects their own Group Conscience.

MUNSTER CONFERENCE DELEGATES REPORT FOR CONFERENCE 2025

Kerry Area Report

Kerry area meets on the first Tuesday of every month in the Brandon Hotel in Tralee. The area is well attended and service is very active. We have a full top table at the moment which helps greatly.

We have a thriving PI committee who has a great mix of youth and experience. They engage with schools and communities where needed. They also attend open meetings and have active presence at the annual convention.

A Kerry literature bank has now been set up and is running quiet well. The Brandon gave us a secure spot to store it and before area there is an opportunity to purchase it.

We also now have an active YPLO and members helping out. We are lucky the Munster YPLO is from Kerry.

Munster Intergroup we are proud to continue the long legacy of service at MIG. Where we normally have a full complement delegates. Who participate in a strong MIG.

The Kerry area convention is held annually in the Brandon Hotel. Numbers were down slightly this year with a combination of things to blame....the upcoming all Ireland convention this April and a NA convention up the country. We first used the Sum Up card payment system. It was great as unfortunately we are going cashless more and more. Although were down there was a marked number of members complementing the meeting.

Kerry Area convention 2026 is on November 6-7-8 in the Brandon hotel

Kerry area will also be doing the literature at the all-Ireland and bringing some of our magnificent archives.

All in all, Kerry area is in a strong position. There are some questions as to why the hard copy meeting directories are gone as many see the benefit in having them.

There are two women's focused meetings taking place in the county one in Killarney and the other in Listowel.

North/East Cork Area Report

The area meets on the last Tuesday of every month. For a while we used to meet in Carrigtwohill. Then we rotate between Mallow and Carrigtwohill to see if we could pick up a few extra groups in-between but that didn't seem to encourage participation.

On the back of trying to encourage more participation we stopped giving out the area bank details with a hope groups would come to area instead of just lodging the money.

Also the area had questions about the insurance scheme and perhaps a more detailed look into how its run. Some groups in the area buy their own insurance.

We again this year are faced without a long term secretary and I feel the area has suffered greatly from this. As it's such an important job and needs continuity. The best group conscience is an informed one. I can't manage to do anything to help out in this specific role. Maybe if the majority of groups went paperless it would ease the burden on the secretary. Most certainly if groups wanted a paper copy that would be facilitated.

With that said the area is a very informed one with often robust discussion taken place. It's just a pity more groups don't participate.

We have two MIG delegates who are great at getting involved in their duties.

With the Cork County convention taken place yearly. Between West Cork and North East Cork take more of a lead each year. It was held in the Celtic Ross last year to an overwhelming success and the re-introduction of the dinner dance.

It will again be held in the Celtic Ross in Rosscarbery this year 22nd-24th May.

Where the North/East area will take the lead.

North/East Cork area would really benefit from more groups attending and bringing fresh faces to help in service as at times it can be the same people that are often called to fill the gap. Hopefully with the YPLO doing more and more it might help with more younger or anyone coming through the structure.

Yours in service
Linda D

Tipperary Area Report

Tipperary Area Committee meet every 6 weeks in the Horse & Jockey Hotel, well-positioned off the M8. On average 11 Groups (40%) attend Area meetings regularly, out of 27 registered. Attendance has declined since last year.

Two Intergroup Delegates were elected to attend Munster Intergroup, with a further 2 being sought.

The telephone rotates around the groups and reports come back to Area.

The Area Convention was held again at The Talbot Hotel, Clonmel on 29-30 August, the theme being "You're no Longer Alone"; 271 delegates registered and an enjoyable weekend was had by all who attended. An information talk was held by the PI Committee on the Friday afternoon; professionals attended from HSE Mental Health and Substance Misuse Services, Tusla Child & Family Agency, C-Saw and the Probation Services.

The PI committee have been working tirelessly throughout the year - all GSRs were given posters to 'put up' across the county. Aluminium signs have also been sourced with AA logo, telephone number and QR code to be placed in community centres and sports grounds.

The Area Secretary completed the 'Area Survey' in July, as requested by GSO.

Tipperary Area make regular financial contributions to Munster Intergroup.

The Area Secretary and Treasurer rotated out as Officers in October and January 2026 will see Chairman rotate out. Currently the 3 Officer positions are vacant.

Yours in fellowship
Audrey, Conference Delegate

Waterford Area Report

There are 14 Groups in Waterford Area, including one online Group. The Area meets every 6 weeks, rotating between Viking Hotel, Waterford City and Lawlor Hotel, Dungarvan, Co Waterford. Groups' attendance at Area meetings averages 50%.

Waterford Groups share the telephone, which is well coordinated by those that attend Area meetings, overall it is reported that the telephone is quiet.

Public Information received posters in February and several members put them up around the city. It was proposed at December's Area meeting to form a PI Committee, young people especially encouraged to become involved.

The Area convention was held in Lawlor's Hotel, Dungarvan Saturday 25-Sunday 26 January. A change to the original schedule was necessary due to cyclone/'Storm Eowyn' on Friday 24. This didn't dampen the spirit and an enjoyable weekend was had by 93 delegates who registered. The convention committee and in particular, Area Chairperson contributed greatly to ensure the convention was a success, despite the challenges.

It has been proposed to hold a one-day convention in Woodlands Hotel, Waterford City on 24 January 2026. The convention committee had difficulty in securing a suitable venue for a weekend convention.

All 3 officers have rotated out of service this year, a new Treasurer was appointed in February, Chairperson in December and a new Secretary is currently sought. Delegates who are eligible are also being asked to be nominated by their Groups to attend Munster Intergroup.

Waterford Area took 'Inventory' as per Appendix 5 Guidelines, on 14 July at 7-10pm in the Viking Hotel, Waterford City, chaired by Tom K, Conference Delegate for Clare/Limerick. There was a good representation from Waterford Groups and overall considered a positive event. There were a number of actions from the 3-hour discussion.

A 'Day of Gratitude' was also held on 16 November in Viking Hotel by the Area.

Yours in fellowship
Audrey, Conference Delegate

Clare Area Report 2025/2026

Clare Area currently consists of 20 groups of which approx. 35% attend the business meetings of Clare Area.

Some Groups in the West Clare area do not attend area, for some, distance is too far, for others, they do not agree with Area or GSO, they feel they are being told what to do, and are annoyed as to what they describe as lack of communication from GSO, and making decisions without communicating with groups or Area.

Services within the Area - Phone, Public Information, are operating, some members from Ennis help Limerick HNI, prison mainly. Groups are interested in public information and giving help when asked.

Ennistymon have two separate groups – one has a meeting on Sunday at 1.00, other has a meeting at 2.00.

Group donations sent to area by some groups, but not by all. Disquiet from groups regarding the appointment of a Paid Board Secretary, would like to have more information/details on this, the EGM was held in March, however information was not communicated until July. It's very much about perception that groups are being ignored.

Groups have not embraced the Outlook System for minutes, all are getting the minutes mailed to them, Area Secretary changed during 2025, she just took over what the previous Secretary did.

Geraldine R

Limerick Area Report 2025/2026

Limerick City Area meet on third Monday of each month, hosting approx. 15 groups out of 22.

Problem with sending minutes, 11 groups not receiving minutes, sending by e mail, until sorted out with Outlook, there is general agreement that Microsoft /Outlook is not user friendly.

5/6 of the County groups travel 25kms, 35kms/longest is 40Kms (one way) to attend Area.

Currently have two Intergroup delegates attending Intergroup, two recent retirements, means there are two positions to be filled.

HNI – going ok, need more women to volunteer to visit women’s section. Telephone service maintained by groups (in alphabetical order).

Continued focus on PI. Holding open meetings in various places. Have new posters. Meetings with various organisations associated with health and addiction services. Road Back magazine distributed to Bruree, half way houses. Plan to continue to expand on this. YPLO (Chris from Kerry) will be attending Limerick convention in early Feb.

At intergroup discussion took place on the proposed Motions to Conference Process regarding the motions being presented, Motion 1 as discussed, question is being asked as to what are the changes, and why do we follow GB and Australia..... Opinion is that the communication from Conference is not good, there appears to be no clear explanation, and it does appear that information regarding money sent to GSO, appointments etc is not very informative to area.

Geraldine R

West Cork Area Report

Area meetings are relatively well attended, with 12 of the 14 groups regularly attending. The two that don’t attend, Castletownbere and Glengarriff, are small groups both located in the very outer parts of west Cork, and we still send minutes to them so they can keep up to date with area.

A new group, Skibbereen Recover Group, joined area in recent months.

Groups take turns with the west Cork AA phone. Calls are relatively infrequent, usually under ten contacts per six week rotating phone period. The majority of them are from older members looking for information about meeting times and locations, though we do sometimes receive calls from people looking for assistance to stop drinking. These people, with their consent, are put in touch with a member of their same gender in their local group so they have a friend for their first meetings.

The group has been struggling with public information - our PI officer retired from the role in September after a short period in it due to family commitments, and nobody has come forward to take over the role at the last two areas, despite the vacancy being minutes and sent back to groups. While the previous PI officer was in the role, and previous officers, they said that schools which had previously hosted AA speakers were no longer interested in doing so, likely due to GDPR and garda vetting/insurance requirements. Schools now seem to be bringing in speakers from a non AA agency to deliver talks on alcohol/substance use. There was also a prolonged back and forth with Bantry General Hospital which previously hosted meetings prior to covid, and it seems the hospital is also not interested in reinstating it. The previous officer did print business cards with a QR code which GSRs have distributed to local GPs, while posters from GSO have also been distributed to groups around west Cork with the west Cork AA number written on them. Discussions have also been held around using anonymously posted social media posts, but no action has been taken on this.

In terms of other service reps, the group currently has a chairman, secretary, treasurer and two intergroup delegates, all of whom have just started their terms.

The group hosted the Cork County convention in Rosscarbery over the summer, and East/North Cork areas will be hosting it this year, as we rotate it. Those groups had experienced issues with

venues before, so the convention is looking likely to be held in Rosscarbery again this year, as we found the hotel fairly priced, pleasant to deal with, and an appealing spot for people to travel to. The convention was well attended by people across Cork and beyond, and made a small profit. West Cork members will volunteer to assist north and east Cork members this year.

Brian

Cork City Area Report

As of December 2025, Area has an approximate average 55% attendance rate out of 40 groups.

Currently all Officer positions are filled. There are 2 intergroup delegates in place and we are hopeful of filling remaining positions in early 2026.

The Public Information Committee has re-organised in the last year and has been actively distributing to doctor's surgeries and Garda Stations and have also reached out to Schools and Colleges. The Committee are also planning a PI meeting with staff at Cork Prison.

Cork City Area organizer's weekly AA meetings in Cork Prison. We currently have 4 members involved and we hope to have another few members come on board soon.

The Area Telephone is rotated monthly between groups and is working well.

The hospital Committee is doing well with 2 meetings weekly at Mercy University Hospital, which are covered by groups on a monthly rotation. We also provide 2 meetings per week at residential treatment centres.

Cork City Area monthly Open Meeting has been struggling with poor attendance. We changed to a more attractive venue during the year but there is no improvement.

Cork City Area Mini Convention will take place on 7th -9th March 2026 at Carrigaline Court Hotel.

Brian

ULSTER CONFERENCE DELEGATES REPORT FOR CONFERENCE 2025

It has been a privilege to continue serving Ulster as GSCD over the past year. I remain grateful for the trust placed in me and for the opportunity to witness AA service in practice across the province. During the year GSCDs attended all Areas in Ulster with the exception of Tyrone where no GSCD visits took place due to ongoing concerns around behaviour at service meetings. One of the most encouraging features throughout the year has been the continued strength of attendance at closed meetings across many Areas reflecting stability and commitment at group level. Public Information work has remained active and increasingly well organised with a clear effort to work responsibly and in line with AA principles.

Engagement at Ulster Intergroup has generally been strong with good attendance and improved communication. A small number of Intergroup officers rotated during the year providing some renewal while also maintaining continuity in key roles. The Intergroup AGM provided an opportunity to reset expectations around personal conduct and respectful participation at service meetings and to remind ourselves of the responsibility we all share to protect unity and create a safe environment for service discussion.

Across the Areas service activity has continued at varying but encouraging levels.

Antrim Area held its AGM with good representation and successfully returned hospital meetings to face-to-face format with patient attendance increasing during the year. A Day of Gratitude was held and was self-supporting and plans are in place for a further Day of Gratitude in 2026. Antrim has maintained consistent representation at Intergroup and continues to contribute actively to telephone service.

Armagh Area experienced difficulty during the year in filling a number of service positions and a Day of Gratitude did not take place. However the Area AGM in November brought a welcome number of new faces into service and plans are in place to hold a Day of Gratitude in the coming year. Group attendance remains steady and there is renewed optimism around rebuilding participation at Area level.

Belfast Area continues to show strong engagement with good attendance at Area meetings and a high level of group participation. Two new women's meetings opened during the year. Belfast supported a number of Public Information events including Open PI meetings and engagement with community and professional settings. Prison service in Belfast did fall away during the year following an incident that stepped outside agreed guidelines however continuity of service was maintained through the support of Down Area whose Prison Coordinator stepped in and carried the service forward in the same prison. Telephone service remains active and a well-attended Day of Gratitude was held with surplus funds passed through the structure.

Derry Area continues to operate with steady attendance at Area meetings and a broad range of active groups including a women-only meeting. During the year the Area began work to better involve country-based groups including holding Area meetings in towns outside the city. This is a positive development though its effectiveness depends on continued engagement from groups in those areas. Public Information requests were consistently covered including work with schools health services and community events. Prison and hospital services remain active. In addition a Derry Area officer continued to coordinate the AA insurance scheme during the year running it very efficiently on the edge of the structure and providing an important service to groups across Ulster. Telephone service coverage was maintained though additional volunteers would strengthen sustainability.

Donegal Area held its AGM and successfully hosted its Area convention which was well supported. The convention continues to attract a large number of visitors from Scotland adding to its vitality and sense of fellowship. Area officers rotated during the year and there is good engagement in telephone service under the new system. Donegal Area delegates are very faithful attenders at Ulster Intergroup and participate actively in discussion and service matters contributing positively to the overall functioning and unity of Intergroup. Plans are in place to hold the 2026 convention again in Donegal with a committee to be formed early in the year.

Down Area held its AGM with good group representation and rotated a number of officers into service. Area meetings were well attended and a Day of Gratitude was held. Like some other Areas in Ulster Down experienced difficulties during the year in getting banking facilities in place at both Group and Area level. Despite this, funds continued to flow through the structure and financial support for service activity was maintained. Public Information activity continues through attracting new members into PI service remains a challenge. Down Area also provided practical support to prison service during the year ensuring continuity where difficulties arose elsewhere.

Fermanagh Area has shown renewed momentum during the year. Meetings are well supported a new meeting opened in Enniskillen and there is strong enthusiasm for current Public

Information activity. While some service roles remain difficult to fill communication through the structure has improved hospital and telephone services are well covered and plans are in place for a Day of Gratitude in the coming year.

Tyrone Area rotated new officers into key roles and continues to support hospital and prison service. However ongoing issues around behaviour at service meetings affected wider engagement during the year.

Monaghan Area continues to work away steadily. Closed meetings in the county remain well attended and full indicating strong group health at ground level. A Day of Gratitude is planned again this year reflecting ongoing commitment to fellowship and service even where formal Area structures are lighter.

Cavan Area did not function independently as an Area during the year though Groups in the county continue to engage through neighbouring Areas and Intergroup ensuring continued connection to the structure.

The Ulster telephone service transitioned fully to the Webex system and continued to operate reliably throughout the year supported by responders across the Areas. While call volumes fluctuated coverage was maintained and further workshops and coordination are planned to support responders and improve continuity. Prison service across Ulster continues quietly and consistently sustained by committed members though broader participation would strengthen this important work.

Public Information activity across Ulster has been particularly encouraging. Area PI committees worked collaboratively to support Open Public Information meetings Days of Gratitude community events and engagement with professional and statutory organisations. This work has been carried out carefully with attention to the Traditions and the principle of cooperation rather than affiliation.

The year was not without challenge. Issues around personal conduct misinformation and unclear communication arose at times and caused unnecessary difficulty within service meetings. Engagement with consultation processes was uneven making it harder to gather broad and informed group conscience on some matters. These experiences highlight the ongoing need for greater understanding of the Concepts particularly in relation to responsibility accountability and respectful dissent.

Looking ahead Ulster begins the coming year with an opportunity to consolidate and build on what is working well. Conventions and Days of Gratitude remain important opportunities for fellowship particularly for newer members who may not yet understand their value or accessibility. It has been encouraging to see younger members increasingly willing to engage in service including the appointment of a new Ulster YPLO and it is hoped this will continue to strengthen the structure.

I want to thank the many members across Ulster who continue to give service often quietly and without recognition. Service in Ulster remains generally very strong at group level and this is reflected at Intergroup where attendance for much of the year consistently ranged between 30 and 40 members. At every level it is this willingness to show up welcome newcomers and place principles before personalities that sustains our Fellowship.

Regards

James

This is my third year as a GSCD for Ulster Intergroup. During my time this year I have visited 9 Areas in Ulster. I have made myself available to be of help to Areas in carrying out their functions and responsibilities. My role at Areas is to when called upon, give clear help, guidance and direction in accordance with the Service Structure and Service Handbook, Conference approved literature and to uphold the Fellowships Traditions and Concepts to the best of my ability to Areas and Groups they serve.

My role also entails communicating all Conference decisions and news to the Intergroup, Areas and Groups in a factual and timely manner. I serve the Fellowship which elected me and am bound by the Code of Conduct asked of me which is to be honest, transparent and show integrity and humility in all my interactions with everyone in the Fellowship.

I am all for robust factual based debate through Structure, as long as it carried out in a respectful and dignified manner. There has been a lot of great work carried out this year by most Areas. I am confident this will continue in 2026.

Overview of Areas

Armagh

The Area struggled this year with lack of Area Officers in regular attendance, genuine reasons for this. Low attendance noted at most meetings and a need for the Area to reach out to their Groups to encourage more people into Service. No Day of Gratitude due to the above problems but one planned for 2026. New officers rotating in should breathe new life and enthusiasm back into the Area. PI functioning in the Area and new PI in place.

Antrim

This Area is well attended and functions in line with Structure. Strong Area Officers and Subcommittee have benefited this Area. Very successful Day of Gratitude and strong PI work being done in this Area. Officers enthusiastic and Area in good shape.

Belfast

Steady attendance and a well run Area . Strong Area Officers in place and Area held a successful Day of Gratitude albeit a few communication issues with the venue. Some banking issues, which got resolved. Good Service Workshop held. Area submitted a Motion to Conference which will be discussed at this year's Conference. Area put forward a venue for All Ireland Convention 2027. Area runs in accordance with the Service Structure and have been helpful in assisting Ulster Intergroup this past year.

Cavan

This Area is not functioning at present but it is hoped that the Area can be reached out to this year and encouraged back into Structure.

Derry

Similar to Armagh with its problems in getting Officers into roles. Area was poorly attended and Day of Gratitude did not happen, due to the latter. DOG now pushed out to this year. Positive PI and Prison/ Hospital Committee operating. Area has got new officers in place this term but work needed to raise attendance and encourage people into Service.

Down

Well attended Area. Had officers in position this year. Area had ongoing Treasurers/Banking Issues which were eventually resolved. Good PI work and enthusiasm shown by PI rep. Open Meetings now resumed at the Hospital, positive. Area had a successful Day of Gratitude and was well run. Just needs organising a bit earlier in the year.

Donegal

Area meetings generally well attended. Officers in place and Area Convention took place as usual. Opportunity on a Service Workshop missed at latter. No GSCD assigned to organising Committee would have been beneficial. Because of the geographical nature of this Area and having 40 plus Groups operating in County, it would be hugely beneficial for the Area to be split into two separate Areas i.e. Donegal North and Donegal South.

This would help continuity in all Service Structure activities within the County and draw more people into Service. The Area meetings and annual Convention prioritises South Donegal at present.

Fermanagh

This Area traditionally suffered due to lack of officers and low attendance. New Area Officers are now in place, full of enthusiasm and having a Day of Gratitude for the first time in many years. There's work still needed in the Area regarding Service and attendance at Area, but they are trying hard to correct this and the Day of Gratitude and Service Presentation will help. Officers reaching out to the Groups for help and support.

Monaghan

Bordering Cavan, this Area struggles with attendance with only 8 Groups in the Area. New officers started off enthusiastically but stated personalities had got in the way. Area not a regular attender at UIG. Area had a Day of Gratitude but again didn't see the need for a Service Presentation getting members into Service which was disappointing. There needs to be a genuine conversation this year in amalgamating Cavan and Monaghan Areas so they can be more effective in representing the Groups they serve as they are drifting further away from the Structure. There is merit in this suggestion.

Tyrone

I last attended this Area at the start of the last term but unfortunately didn't reattend due to behaviour issues at the Area which are well documented. If ever a few personalities dominated an Area, this was the example, as it split the Area, which up to then was a strong Area. It is hoped with new officers in place this Area will return to Structure as there are good enthusiastic people willing and able to contribute if given the chance. The Area at present is still withholding funds but it is hoped this situation will be rectified this year.

Conclusion

We have amazing subcommittees in our Areas carrying out the essential Services which AA provides, from Hospitals to Prisons and Public information. I'd like to personally thank all those involved for their dedicated work in Carrying the Message. Fresh approaches needed into getting members into Service needs to be addressed at all levels.

Most of the Areas have had or are planning to have Days of Gratitude. It is important that the correct planning goes into putting these special days together and a proper Committee is formed

by the relevant Area. It is suggested that a GSCD be invited onto these Committees The Delegates are only there to help and advise and not to police or tell members what to do , and will help the Areas work within the framework of the Days of Gratitude and Mini Conventions document which was drawn up last year to help deliver a successful stress free Event.

Areas which embraced this practice tended to have benefited the most as their Events ran smoothly and achieved their purpose. I was personally involved in the Antrim and Down Area Day of Gratitude Committees last year and would like to thank all those on their respective Committees for their hard work and dedication and congratulate them for their Service.

As usual after the AGMs we have a lot of members rotating in and out of Service. I wish the new officers well in their new roles and responsibilities and encourage them to familiarise themselves and read the Service Handbook. Most problems and questions that arise in the Fellowship are due to a lack of knowledge of the Service Handbook . Most issues can be solved by the Collective Experience contained in the Service Handbook. Valuable reading for all Officers. Area can benefit from regular Area Inventories and it would be helpful if they schedule these as early as possible for the year ahead, to see what is working, not working and what they could do better. This helps with the challenges ahead and creates a framework for the rest of the year. " If we don't grow we will surely die."

Ulster Intergroup

Kenny P resigned as Ulster Trustee at the start of the year past and will be greatly missed. He was missed and the other Provincial Trustees stepped in and attended the Ulster Intergroup which was appreciated. The behavioural issues in Tyrone and their issues infiltrated the Intergroup and a meeting was set up by the Board and the Officers of Tyrone to help address their concerns. Sadly anything that was answered was not accepted by the Officers and this caused disruption and disharmony at Intergroup and Areas. With that being said the Intergroup managed to function and get through its agenda and purpose, so credit to the Officers of Intergroup and Area Officers in keeping their commitments. Unity and Service is vitality important this coming year and with new officers and Ulster Trustee now in place hopefully we can move forward together without distraction. Public Information is very strong in Ulster, no thanks to Tess our PI Intergroup Coordinator. Tess has been enthusiastic about this role and has now got a committee around her which is doing amazing work out there in our Communities. With no Intergroup Prison Convenor in place there has to be a focus put on this important area this year. There is a sense of Back to Basis approach needed this year at Ulster Intergroup after the distractions of the past year. It would be advantageous to have an Intergroup Inventory Meeting in the first part of this year.

There has been noise over better communication this past year. One of the main ways AA communicates with its members is by the use of AA Mailboxes. This is from Group to Area to Intergroup and Conference. Again, for the new officers it is vital to get these up and running to start sharing the flow of information down to Groups. There is now plenty of help and support available on the website and hopefully a new tutorial which is being looked at for all members. The Road Back, the Fellowships own publication is a helpful tool in communicating the information to all members in the Fellowship and I would encourage all members to read as it is a fantastic read.

I would like to thank all those in the running of the Ulster Telephone Service. To all the Committee and fantastic responders in helping to Carry the Message to the still suffering alcoholic still out there. Thank you to Mark, Robert and Joanne for their tireless work behind the scenes to make this work. A word of appreciation to our UIG Officers namely John, Martine and Dearbhaile who also work hard behind the scenes on behalf of us.

As a Delegate I have had the privilege to attend the Company AGM and Conference. During this time I have learned new ways of looking and dealing with things and new methods in working with others. My work is on behalf of the Fellowship in Ireland. I don't work for the Board but cooperate with the Board to voice the opinions and concerns raised by our members.

To my fellow Conference Delegates , former Trustee Kenny P and incoming Ulster Trustee, James McK, I thank you for all of your help support and advice you have kindly offered me in my role.

I wish James well in his new role.

To everyone involved at GSO from Barbara, Michael and the team, thank you for all the hard work you do on behalf of the entire Fellowship in Ireland.

Finally, I hope and pray we can all move forward in the Spirit of Love, Peace and Unity in 2026 and to "practice these principles in all our affairs".

Brian D.
Ulster Delegate 3

Donal Ulster Delegate

I have just completed my first year in this role I have attended all areas a few times we have had some very heated discussions and a few bits of trouble and bad manners but we have got through them.

Most areas doing really well now and intergroup going very well. I've had the pleasure of attending other intergroups and has been really good to see how they conduct their business I have received a lot of help from my other colleagues all over Ireland and look forward to getting on with things this year

Yours in fellowship
Donal

GSCD Report

As the newest GSCD, after I was voted into service later in the year, I quickly got involved in the role.

The Telephone Service is my main focus, after supporting the Areas and the last two phone conveners to maintain and manage the service to the still-suffering alcoholic. AA mailboxes are also my area of expertise, helping Groups gain access as this is the primary channel of communication through structure. (Please note that new officers and changes to Group details can all be done using the online GIS form on the website). I have also been invited by Conference to join the Subcommittee for Literature. We hope to issue a new Service Handbook in 2026 and a video to celebrate the 80th anniversary of AA in Ireland. I have also had to challenge behaviours and look to my own in service when certain personalities have tried to come before principles this year at UIG. Thank you to my fellow GSCDs and the former Trustee for guidance and encouragement.

However I warmly thank those Areas who welcomed me at their meetings, it is always an honour and a privilege to witness the good work going on at Area level. I have visited Antrim, Armagh, Belfast, Derry and Donegal and hope to get to Down, Fermanagh, Tyrone and Monaghan in 2026.

Days of Gratitude and Conventions are always brilliant opportunities for fellowship and to carry the message. Thank you to the Areas and Groups supporting Prisons, Hospitals and other PI work. I hear that it is always the same few people doing service, there is lots to be done and that is why we need to sponsor others into service and emphasise the importance of rotation.

Welcome to the new officers rotating into Area service and to those continuing, we need you to link between what has gone before and what decisions we take now, and to those rotating out, thank you for your service.

Joanne

DRAFT

Appendix J

World Service Delegates Report

23rd European Service Meeting.

17TH to 19th October 2025

York England

Unifying and safeguarding our fellowship

Tom D and John T attended as World Service Delegates for Ireland. It was a very rich and rewarding weekend with 31 countries. The ESM is of great benefit in the sharing of experience, strength and hope between our different countries and is especially valuable for newer countries in the structure.

Registration took place from 2.00pm to 3.30pm on Fri 17th Oct 2025

Conference was opened at 4.00pm by Ranjan B, the General Secretary of the European Information Centre who read preamble and the meeting chair Moira S Ireland welcomed delegates before 12 Traditions were read.

Keynote address, Patrick C, International Coordinator, U.S./CAN, General Service Office, New York

Patrick C on behalf of Bob W gave an update on Translation and Licensing Publishing Project. He also explained how he had rotated into the international desk this year (staff in NY office rotate their roles every two years so all are familiar with all duties and responsibilities of each office).

The 2024 World Service Meeting Report was presented by Jony F (Netherlands) and Maija T (Latvia)

Meeting resumed at 7.30 with country summaries/reports highlights (2 to 3 minutes per country). John gave report for Ireland. Meeting concluded at 10 pm with serenity prayer

Moira outlined committee and workshop groupings and explained general formats and location of rooms for SAT 18th schedule.

Committees included.

Recovery.

Unity.

Service.

Tom D Ireland was on unity committee and John T was on the service committee

Each meeting was 3 hours duration with 30-minute refreshment break and resumed to complete report (chair and sec) with final 30 minutes devoted to agreeing final report.

Workshops included.

1. How to lead by example
2. Opinion of the minority
3. Service – keeping the fellowship alive

Workshops were 2 hours 45 minute which included 30 minute refreshment break and 30 minutes to finalise reports.

At 5 00 pm presentations by chairs and discussion of committee reports was convened followed by question and answer /open discussion.

A closed AA meeting was convened entitled “Unifying our fellowship through good leadership.” Meeting closed 10 pm with Serenity prayer.

Conference resumed at 09.15 on Sunday 19th with presentations and discussions of Workshop reports and at 10.15 there was a 30-minute slot for QA and open discussion.

The 24th European service meeting in 2027 will be in York .

The theme for 24th ESM will be. “Unchanged message in a changing world “

An agenda committee was formed –

second term delegates from four countries were invited to give closing addresses. **Gunnar - Iceland, Carmen - Slovenia, Levey - Great Britain and Karolina - Czech Republic**

Moira gave closing address, and each country was called upon to say serenity prayer in native tongue.

The theme for 24th ESM will be. “Unchanged message in a changing world” **and the delegates selected to prepare ESM report for WSM in 2026 in New York and report back to ESM in 2027 were Jony F Netherlands and Maija T Latvia.**

An agenda committee was formed comprising - Moira S Ireland (CHAIR). Pascal D Belgium (Flemish) – service committee chair. Dunja P Croatia -recovery committee chair. Regis C French speaking Europe – unity committee chair.

Appendix K

Attendance at the 2025 General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous – Great Britain

Joint report from James McK and Jenny K

We attended the 2025 General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain as observers. This report is offered jointly and reflects both our direct experience of the Conference and the outcomes and themes reported through plenary sessions and committee feedback.

From the outset the overall atmosphere of the Conference was deliberately spiritual, reflective and measured. The structure and pacing of proceedings consistently encouraged listening, patience and trust in process rather than urgency or persuasion. There was a clear sense that Conference was understood as an expression of the collective conscience of the Fellowship, rather than simply a forum for procedural decision-making.

Orientation, process and participation

Before the Conference formally opened observers were invited to a dedicated introductory meeting. This explained in detail how Conference operates, how authority flows through the service structure and how discussion, minority opinion and voting are handled. It was made clear that in Great Britain, Conference business is brought in the form of “Questions,” which serve the same function as motions at Conference in Ireland.

The emphasis was on discernment and informed group conscience rather than advocacy. Each Question had already progressed through the service structure before reaching Conference. The Conference Standing Committee outlined the process by which eighty five submitted Questions were reviewed and refined into eleven Questions for Conference consideration. This preparation, together with the publication of Questions and responses in advance contributed to a well-informed and focused Conference.

Significant effort was made to support those attending Conference for the first time.

Delegates with several years’ Conference experience were clearly identified and available to newer members creating an atmosphere of quiet mentorship and shared responsibility that was evident throughout the event.

Plenary discussion and minority opinion

The Conference was much larger than Conference in Ireland, bringing a broader range of experience, geography and service background into the room. Despite this discussion remained disciplined and respectful. Contributions were generally focused on the Question under consideration and framed in terms of AA principles and service responsibility rather than personal position.

A defining and consistently applied feature of the Conference was the formal recognition of minority opinion. At the conclusion of discussion on each Question, time was explicitly set aside for minority views to be expressed and recorded before a final vote was taken. Minority opinion was treated as an integral part of Conference conscience rather than an obstacle to decision-making.

Subjects covered at the 2025 GB Conference

Across Conference Questions, reports, plenary discussion and breakout group feedback, the Conference addressed a wide and substantive range of issues affecting AA in Great Britain.

Public information and external engagement

Conference gave significant attention to public information and cooperation with professionals. Discussions covered engagement with health services, criminal justice agencies and public bodies, as well as responses to external research and media commentary on recovery. Emphasis was placed on clarity, accuracy and consistency in public messaging, while remaining firmly grounded in AA principles and the tradition of attraction rather than promotion. Conference supported the continued development of appropriate literature and communication within these boundaries.

Safeguarding and duty of care

Safeguarding featured prominently throughout the Conference. Reports and Questions addressed safeguarding responsibilities across the service structure, including clarity of roles, appropriate guidance for trusted servants and training needs. Conference acknowledged the increasingly complex external environment in which AA operates and emphasised proportionate, well-understood safeguards, while avoiding unnecessary centralisation or professionalisation.

Service participation and sustainability

Conference acknowledged ongoing challenges in engaging members in service and identified gaps in participation across some regions. Reports highlighted concerns around representation and continuity in service roles. Conference supported continued efforts to encourage service, share experience and reduce barriers to participation, recognising this as essential to the long-term health of the Fellowship.

Service structure, authority, and accountability

There was sustained discussion about how Conference authority is exercised, how decisions are reached and how they are communicated back to the Fellowship.

Conference reaffirmed that its role is defined by the Concepts of Service and the Conference Charter. It was clearly stated that governance of the General Service Board is not within Conference remit and that some matters are more appropriately addressed through service forums, trustees or the General Service Office.

Digital change and modern communication

Reports to Conference including from the World Service Meeting, highlighted the impact of digital meetings, online service and technology on AA worldwide. Discussion recognised both opportunities and challenges particularly the need to balance innovation with Tradition. Conference supported continued reflection and learning rather than immediate structural change.

Breakout discussion groups

A significant feature of the 2025 GB Conference was the structured use of breakout discussion groups. These groups were facilitated, deliberately mixed in terms of experience and designed to deepen reflection on themes arising from Conference business rather than to make decisions.

James participated in breakout groups focused on service structure, Conference authority and process including how Questions are developed, how informed group conscience is supported and how minority opinion contributes to unity.

Jenny participated in breakout groups focused on public information and safeguarding, examining communication with professionals and the public, safeguarding responsibilities at different service levels and how trusted servants are supported appropriately. Also in the exploration of provisions for AA GB to have guidance on social media presence.

Feedback presented to plenary sessions indicated that other breakout groups explored encouraging and supporting participation in service, communication between Conference and

the wider Fellowship, responding to social and digital change while remaining rooted in AA principles and how trust and unity are maintained in the presence of disagreement.

Summaries from all breakout groups were shared with Conference and clearly informed subsequent discussion. While these groups were not decision-making forums they contributed significantly to informed group conscience and the overall tone of Conference.

Decisions and outcomes

Decisions were taken in response to individual Questions rather than as a single consolidated list. Conference outcomes included affirmation of approaches to public information and cooperation with professionals, clarification and strengthening of safeguarding expectations and guidance, support for continued development of training and support for trusted servants, reaffirmation of Conference process including minority opinion and informed group conscience and endorsement of continued reflection on service participation and effectiveness.

Votes followed full discussion and the opportunity for minority opinion. Where decisions were not unanimous, outcomes were accepted respectfully and Conference moved forward without revisiting settled matters.

Overall reflections

Overall, we came away with a strong sense that the GB Conference places real value on preparation, inclusion, clarity of process and the respectful handling of differences.

The combination of well-prepared material, structured discussion, formal recognition of minority opinion and the extensive use of breakout discussion groups contributed to a

Conference that felt calm, inclusive and effective. What was also striking was the welcome and inclusivity aspect of their visitors from other countries, we were actively asked to contribute and engage. There was an emphasis on the welcome and guidance on their new delegates, as well as a respect and gratitude for those completing their final conference.

This report is offered as a joint reflection on what we experienced and what was reported back to Conference. It is not intended as a comparison or critique, but as an account of subjects, processes, and decisions that may be useful for reflection as we continue to develop and strengthen our own Conference experience. We would highly recommend any Conference member broadening their experience by becoming an observer at this Conference.

Appendix L

Report to the 2026 All-Ireland Conference

68th All-Ireland Convention Report

Connacht Intergroup had the privilege of organizing the **68th All-Ireland Convention** on behalf of the fellowship across the island of Ireland. This year's convention took place at the **Clayton Hotel, Sligo**, from **Friday, April 11th, to Sunday, April 13th**, and was attended by approximately **600 members**.

The theme for the convention, "**Strength in Unity**," celebrated the power of togetherness, support, and service within our fellowship. Throughout the weekend, the atmosphere was **warm, welcoming, and inclusive**, reflecting the spirit of unity and connection that defines AA. Members enjoyed a meaningful weekend of fellowship, reflection, and shared experience.

The committee maintained much of the traditional format, including marathon meetings with engaging and well-received themes. The convention officially opened with an **Open Public Meeting** in the ballroom on Friday night at **8:00 PM**, which was very well attended.

There was plenty for members to get involved in over the weekend, including **three workshops held on Saturday**. The **Archives** were also on display in the main circulation area outside the meeting rooms, giving members the opportunity to explore and reflect on the rich history of AA in Ireland.

Entertainment formed an important part of the weekend's fellowship. A **disco was held on Friday night** in the main hall following the Open Public Meeting. On **Saturday night**, the **Jesse Conlon Band** performed live in the main ballroom from **10:00 PM**, providing an enjoyable evening of music and celebration.

In addition, **YPLO members hosted a workshop on Saturday**, along with **three marathon meetings** that ran across the weekend, all of which were well supported.

We owe a **great debt of gratitude to the Connacht Intergroup Committee members**, who worked extremely hard to provide a successful and enjoyable weekend of fellowship. We also extend our sincere thanks to the **Sligo North Leitrim Area** and the many members who provided invaluable service throughout the weekend.

The convention commenced with the **Earlybird's Meeting on Thursday**, followed by the official opening on Friday, April 11th, and concluded with the **Closing Meeting on Sunday morning**.

Registration
Thurs from 7pm, Fri from 12pm
Hotel Lobby (€15)

Early Bird Meeting
Thursday 10 April at 8pm -
Residents Lounge

Open Public Meeting
Friday 8pm - Pegasus Room

Entertainment
Friday - Disco with DJ Joe 90
Saturday - The Jesse Conlon Band

This Year's Theme
STRENGTH IN UNITY

PREAMBLE
Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful celebration of sobriety
Keep coming back!

11-13 APRIL 2025
CLAYTON HOTEL
CO. SLIGO,
IRELAND

Full AA-Anon participation

www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
Information Line 01 842 0700

Ni neart go cur le chéile

A detailed income and expenditure report is provided below.

Connacht Intergroup
ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2025

Date	Transactions	Money In	Money out	BALANCE
	CASH COLLECTED	€5,893.00		
	BAND		€500.00	
	D.J		€280.00	
	PRINTING		€25.00	
	LANYARDS		€350.00	
	PROGRAMS		€90.00	
	LANYARDS CARDS		€40.00	
	BREAKAGES		€100.00	
	HOTEL		€3,937.00	
				€571.00
	CARD PAYMENT	€4,104.00		
				€4,675.00
	LITERATURE		€1,081.10	
	CARD MACHINE		€80.97	
	CARD COMMISSION		€121.77	
				€3,391.26
	HOTEL DEPOSIT		€1,000.00	
	CONVENTION SURPLUS			€2,391.26