

Sussex Area Local Services Committee Meeting
Chairperson Summary
14/08/18

Sub-committee activities:

This committee is responsible and accountable for all PI/H&I, Website and Outreach for Sussex Area of NA.

HMP Ford: Meetings are ongoing, attendance is sparse but worthwhile. We are still in the throws of negotiating moving the meeting to the Chapel.

Vetting: Two names have gone forward, both of whom can meet the VCP at the times set aside. We are doing all we can to arrange alternate times to meet the VCP out of hours. (Without success so far)

There are other local members wishing to go forward too, these are currently completing SAR's (Subject Access Requests) to get details of any criminal records required in time for the vetting process.

HMP Lewes: It has been a while since NA has had any presence within HMP Lewes. This committee decided at the outset to look for alternate methods to restore the situation by establishing contact with services working within HMP Lewes. Without aiming too high. We have found and established that link which will, hopefully, go a long way to restoring an NA connection with HMP Lewes. We are about to make plans for a PI/H&I presentation to the service providers staff team. We will inform everyone when the final arrangements are made.

If the outcomes are successful, the vetting processes would still apply but be at Enhanced Level 2.

Langford Centre, Bexhill. As agreed at last month's LSC. We now have monthly meetings. One Women's and one Men's. August went as follows: Women's meeting, Monday 6th August, well attended: Men's meeting, Monday 13th August, well attended. Next meetings are set for 3rd September and 10th September respectively, then continue on the monthly basis.

Recovery Lighthouse, Worthing. This Tuesday evening H&I meeting continues to thrive and is well attended. Lighthouse recently purchased CT key tags directly from UKSO.

Stonepillow Hub, Chichester. No NA presence here since end of May. This was a mutual arrangement due to some major changes to the Stonepillow organisation. Two brand new homelessness facilities have been created, in Bognor (used to be Ravenscourt) and the other in Chichester. Both are now open, both have separate meeting spaces for NA meetings. Peter and I went to the Bognor facility, 10th July, to engage with the staff. Natalie S and I took the opportunity to meet at the Chichester Hub with Alison Ruston on the 19th July to arrange presentations to staff for the new Chichester Project. We were given permission to visit the project the same day. Meeting space at this location would be perfect for an H&I meeting. As would the project in Bognor.

William Collier House, Brighton. The current monthly arrangement working well. Table set up in the lobby, two members willing to talk to residents and hand out NA leaflets. We go along once a month on a Thursday evening 7:15 to 7:45. Will review after another few attendances.

Reformed East Sussex: Eastbourne. Babs offered to make contact at last LSC. To date this hasn't happened. However, she has suggested that some members in and around Eastbourne are looking to start another regular NA meeting anyway.

Babs sent this via email: "Some people are making noises about starting a second meeting in Eastbourne, and this might take manpower priority. However, there is also the possibility that it could be a regular meeting held at Reformed, rather than an H&I meeting. I'll update soon."

Important to mention: *There might be other service providers in Eastbourne that we need to engage with too.*

Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton. Meeting going well. Building good relations with staff. Getting to speak with patients on several of the wards. NA "Name tags" are worn, clearly identifying who we are. From experience, the staff are showing a real willingness to understand and engage with us, referring patients for us to go and engage with. We need more Women to help with doing this service.

Cont.:

Website: Website migration to new server completed. Website is now GDPR compliant. New privacy and cookies policies posted to website. New Email accounts set up for Sussex NA sub-committees. Neil P and I met on both Wednesday 18th July and last week together with Paul R on the 8th August to work on any website updates etc.

Please see separate website report:

Invoice for Shoestring Digital has been paid in full.

NB: 12 step lists need a revision to ask existing 12step members permissions to remain on that list.

Babs agreed at last LSC to manage this: Ongoing.

Saturday 4th August Brighton Pride, Preston Park. We had 10 NA volunteers on-site in total on the day. Three meetings took place. These were attended by those from around the country, already in recovery, as well as others seeking to find out and looking for recovery. Meeting lists and Welcome packs were distributed throughout the Community Village and the main arena. Tradition 7 pot donations came to £31.40 which help to offset costs of literature distributed. (estimated at around £35.00) No other costs were incurred for providing the NA site at Pride.

Upcoming presentations and moving forward:

Substance misuse in schools: Many local Secondary Schools are becoming very aware of rising problematic substance misuse amongst students. Schools have been inviting parents along to “awareness” presentations. This needs to become a priority for us. To bring H&I/PI presentations into these schools over the upcoming 2018/2019 Academic year. Target groups would be years 10 and 11 students, and staff too. This problem needs to be addressed at 6th form colleges and the Universities also.

Seek out and contact drugs and homeless outreach services in **Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill, Eastbourne, Hastings, Crawley etc.** Not limited to just these towns either. This perhaps needs to also include **Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath and the Conquest Hospital, Hastings.**

How do we feel about holding the LSC meeting outside of Brighton, say once every three months?

Chichester Hub could be made available for us which may encourage members in W Sussex to get more involved. Crawley and Eastbourne/Hastings also. Just need to sort venue and times to suit.

UKH&I: I attended UKH&I on Sunday 5th August.

To be honest this committee is in crisis at the moment. Some recent decisions made by some RCM's at Region have created some disunity. Fair to say, that some responsibility may reside with the UKH&I committee too. Discussions that took place on the day helped to distract the committee from undertaking its normal course of business for a large period. Eventually, area chairpersons were able to give their reports. I asked for and collected some Prison and Institution sponsorship posters. Where we can, NA areas need to continue to support UKH&I.

Would anybody like to come and attend the UKH&I meeting on Sunday 2nd September 13:00 – 16:00 in Pimlico, London?

Next UKPI meeting 2nd October 2018 19:00hrs, venue TBC.

Our Next meeting: Tuesday 11th September 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton BN1 1AF