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UK Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous

11th - 12th January 2020

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Day One

Roll Call

Position	Admin Committee
Chair	Richard
Vice Chair	Lisa
Regional Delegate	Simon
Alternate Regional Delegate	Sam
Treasurer	Hayley
Vice Treasurer	Matt
Resource	Craig

Sub-committee	Representative
UKH&I Chair (<i>not yet ratified</i>)	Mike
UKSO Chair	Micky
UKComms Treasurer (<i>not yet ratified</i>)	Andy
UK Fellowship Development Chair (<i>not yet ratified</i>)	Pete

Area	RCM
Dorset	Stuart
East & Central Lancashire	Ruth
East Midlands (Vice)	Gino
Edinburgh & Lothians	Micky
Essex	Paul
Farsi Speaking	Raman
Greater Manchester	Rob
Hampshire	Tara
Kent	Roy
Merseyside	Joey
Norfolk & Suffolk	Emily
North East England (<i>Acting</i>)	Felix
North East London	Goko
North East England & North Wales	David
North West London	Paul
North West London (Vice)	Steve
South East London	Hardeep
South East London (Vice)	Bruno
South West London	Mike
Shires	Ian
Surrey	Joe
Sussex	Natalie
West Midlands	Az
West Midlands (Vice)	Earl
Yorkshire & Humberside	Chris
Voting RCMs	21

Observers	Brian, Sarah, Tom
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Deleted: UKSO Secretary

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Apologies

Alternate RD had to leave during the morning, and gave apologies.

Opening Remarks

Reports continue to arrive late and this is causing unnecessary pressure on the Admin committee. Please can you all endeavour to get reports submitted in a timely manner.

Tradition Twelve

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all of our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

Bids to Host Future RSC Meetings

Shires Area

Submitting a bid to host Region in September 2020. £24/hr.
The room bigger room has plenty of space. 5pm finish may be fixed. Number of sockets will be an issue, could potentially purchase extension cables. Accessibility is okay. People from the local area could be available to give lifts to/from the station.

RCM for the Shires Area to check closing time of the venue.

Edinburgh & Lothians Area

Edinburgh are putting in a bid for Region in May RCM will attend Region in January
Cost £150 per day and tea and coffee £2 per person for weekend @ Edinburgh Napier University Merchiston Campus. Invoice will be sent after event.

Approved.

Approval of Last RSC Meeting Minutes

Minutes from November approved.

Election of Committee Members

Positions available

Vice Secretary, Vice Resource

Tom has been elected as Secretary on the Admin Committee.

Pete has been elected as Chair of Fellowship Development.

Treasurer's Opening Report

Opening Balance	£16,519.46
Prudent Reserve	£12,300.00

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RCM Reports

Dorset

Can we have more info on the forthcoming PI survey
PI have sent the survey out.

European convention, how is the current alert threat in Cairo
There is little risk in attending the convention. Please refer to Government guidelines.

Is there any training / workshops available to help members get involved in Website service
There isn't currently anything specific, but this could be arranged since there is a budget set for workshops. All volunteers are trained accordingly.

East & Central Lancashire

No questions.

East Midlands Area

There has been talk of starting an F&E committee in our Area. One of the arguments to NOT form one has been that it would take away the local unity momentum that occurs when events are formed. Have other Areas who have active F&E committees experienced this? How would you still have a body that puts on events in the area, yet still give room for other ad-hoc committees to start up and not get in the way of each other?

*Boundaries set out from the start have proved helpful.
Some areas have had this run successfully so long as it doesn't clash. Communication between committees has taken place at the local Area meeting.
Communication is the key.*

Essex

We have had issues with 'WhatsApp' groups. There have been several arguments with people leaving groups
People posting on groups with non-NA related issues such as politics. The groups are mostly set up to facilitate a meeting. With the name of the group for example 'Friday NA Meeting' with NA logo. There seems to be a shocking lack of any understanding of NA Traditions. Where people post all sorts of non-NA material.

1. Have any other areas experienced these issues?
This is a common issue.

2. Would the Region consider looking into producing some simple guidelines to help meetings and avoid members Arguing and falling out.
There are already guidelines. What some Areas have done is to remind the groups of the guidelines when an issue arises, or notify an Admin.

Farsi

Would like to give Farsi newcomer packs to all RCMs to take back to ASCs for all GSRs to put in meetings.

Each group is autonomous. We cannot force this onto groups. This would incur a huge cost.

Suggestion that this could be handled by PI and/or FD in a different way via having a card that links to navigations. Farsi RCM to bring this literature to the next Region.

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Greater Manchester

No questions.

Hampshire

No questions.

Kent

I am asked to request experience from anyone with experience of collecting donations electronically in meetings

This was already answered in September RSC - please refer to the minutes from September.

Merseyside

A member as asked if the UKSO moves to Preston will we see any savings in Literature or will it remain the same? Thanks.

UKSO Vision Committee have answered this question multiple times and have been swiftly responding to any questions that members have had.

The purpose of the move is to ensure financial stability. Literature is always sold at the the lowest possible price.

Is there any movement in gaining access to the ASC bank account?

The Treasurer of the ASC now has access to the account.

Norfolk & Suffolk

No questions

Can experience be shared about how to negotiate the price of venues to host the RSC?

The Bidding Template will be edited by the Admin Committee to make space for another 10 people, which naturally will add to the budget to host RSC.

NE England

No questions.

North East London

To delay move UKSO to Preston for ratification from January to March to give more time to receive the answers.

Votes have already been submitted. The deadline has been agreed since September.

Northwest London

Could we have feedback on:

Public Liability experienced

One group has it, £94 per year. Requirement of the venue.

PI Chair to forward email from solicitor regarding PLI. Concerns that it should be the venue's responsibility to have insurance for groups that use the venue. This was disputed by another member.

Card reader experience

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Demonstration to be arranged for the next region.

North West England and North Wales

In the absence of an RCM, who does the receipt from the UKSO go to when literature is bought?
The invoice from UKSO will typically go to the Treasurer since they arrange for payment of the invoice.

Was any of the NWE&NW meetings updated over the Christmas period?
Fewer than 1/3rd of the meetings were updated.

Scotland - Edinburgh & Lothians Area

Are we to call ourselves Public information or public relations?
The committee can choose to call themselves whichever (or whatever) they decide.

Vaping in Women's H&I meeting - Inmates could potentially put drugs in their vapes which jeopardises the safety of the NA members holding the meeting.
H&I Handbook states that NA needs to abide by the rules of the Institution. If there are concerns then these need to be brought to the management of that institution.

Shires

Submitting our bid to host region in May 2020
PI question: 'what is the status of English Probation service? How can PI contact this organisation locally? In Northampton, PI Letters/emails to 'the manager, Probation Service Northampton' as advised by front desk, are unanswered.
Chair of PI offered to discuss this matter since they are in regular contact with HMPPS.

South West London

No questions.

Sussex

No questions.

West Midlands

Our ASC has requested clarification on the 20% donation (upon request and forfeit of the ASC's own convention) from UKCNA, a copy of the guidelines and wording quoted at the last RSC will suffice.
To be answered in UKCNA report tomorrow.

Yorkshire & Humberside

Convention Committee are raising funds for the convention. DJ is being hired, and the DJ isn't a member of NA. Is this okay?
As long as the person is paid for their time, this will not be in conflict with the Seventh Tradition.

Can we use Event Bright to sell the tickets?
This has been used by committees in NASA and the Devon Campout events. Cash options are available for those who don't want their details stored with Event Bright.

Regional Delegate Report

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The Regional Delegate delivered their report, then put on a Conference Agenda Report workshop.

Close of Business

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Day Two

Roll Call

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Treasurer	Hayley
Vice Treasurer	Matt
Resource	Craig
Secretary	Tom

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UKSO Chair	Micky
UKSO Secretary	Lucy
UKCNA Chair	Dave
UKComms Treasurer (<i>not yet ratified</i>)	Andy
UK Fellowship Development Chair (<i>not yet ratified</i>)	Pete

Area	RCM
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Essex	Paul
Farsi Speaking	Raman
Greater Manchester	Rob
Hampshire	Tara
Kent	Roy
Merseyside	Joey
Norfolk & Suffolk	Emily
North East England (<i>Acting</i>)	Felix
North East London	Goko
North East England & North Wales	David
North West London	Paul
North West London (Vice)	Steve
South East London	Hardeep
South East London (Vice)	Bruno
South West London	Mike
Shires	Ian
Surrey	Joe
Sussex	Natalie
West Midlands	Az
West Midlands (Vice)	Earl
Yorkshire & Humberside	Chris
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Observers	Brian
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Apologies

Sam K - Alternate Regional Delegate

Subcommittee Reports

UKPI

Survey to be rolled out, aiming to hit 2000+ members.

Question 2 should be removed since the only person information being held is in Question 2.

This question will be removed.

Report contains email addresses which breaches GDPR.

Experiencing difficulties with UKNA email addresses .

What is the survey for?

Please refer to the first paragraph on the survey.

Ethnic groups - is this a standardised set? NHS has a standardised set that could be used.

Suggestion that it could be asked "How do you see yourself within an Ethnic group?" and extend this to the gender question.

Employment Status does not include "unemployed due to disability"

This will be added.

Will this information be used for the service committee member's PHD in surveying?

The body was reassured that the information returned from the survey will not be used for purposes outside of NA. The individual is helping out because they have the necessary skill set.

UKComm

In the absence of a chair, who is creating the report?

Treasurer is currently creating the reports.

Lancashire RCM expressed concerns that groups had updated their meeting availability over the Christmas period, but the website did not reflect this.

The committee was proactive, not sure how these were missed.

Is there a possibility of hiring a special worker for the UKComms committee?

This is for region to discuss.

UKSO could be used as legal entity to register a developer account on the Apple App Store.

Approved.

Treasurer thanks Comms committee for technical assistance at the new year.

When is the app going to be released?

Can't determine exactly when. As soon as is possible.

Can RCMs here today join the 12th Step list?

Yes we encourage everyone to join this list. Due to GDPR, all data was removed some time ago.

There will be a weekend in the next few months where emails will be down due to changing email provider.

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Asking H&I whether they could ask their existing Prison Sponsors whether would consider doing Distance Sponsorship as well. Response received was non positive. Further discussion required in UKH&I report.

UKH&I

Action for RCMS - please put out to your area that UKH&I is in desperate need of people willing to fulfil service commitments

RCM feels that it isn't their fault that service positions aren't being filled.

Some RCMS do take this information back, but some areas don't know what is happening at UKH&I.

Could UKH&I reach out to local H&I committees?

Anyone can get on the mailing list in order to receive the minutes from the UKH&I committee meetings.

What else can H&I meetings do to increase the number of female sponsees?

Literature exists, and can be collected from UKH&I. This literature has provided a successful way of increasing awareness that sponsorship is available.

UKComms state that they were only asking whether Prison Sponsors would be interested in Distance Sponsorship? This request was refused.

This will be asked.

Treasurer has asked - stipend is £2500 so this can't be requested since there is a balance already with UKH&I. Treasurer sending £444.07 for stipend and £500 learning day top-up.

Proposals accepted with thanks.

Can you clarify, in what ways has your treasurer been abused?

Consistently being challenged about 'every small thing'.

RCM understands that RSC treasurers have been to UKH&I to serve, not to disrupt or abuse.

RCM feels that we should stick to the facts of the matter, leaving out personal opinion and emotion.

Have the other subcommittees experienced the same animosity during audits from RSC?

When vital positions are vacant, why are new positions being created and filled?

UKSO

Will the literature price remain the same for this year?

The budget is for this calendar year, and there will not be an increase in this calendar year.

Is there any information about Brexit?

The Government wants to have a trade deal, however there is a chance that we come out of the EU without a trade deal. UKSO has made plans in the event of a no deal Brexit.

Profit - Will the literature prices be going down at any point?

There will be many costs associated with the move. The surplus is going to be channelled into the move itself. Once the move is completed and the business up and running, it may be possible for a reduction in the price of literature because the running costs will be lower.

UKComms receive a lot of calls about meetings which have been found in out of date where to finds. Do we sell many? Is there a need to continue producing them?

These are proving to be less popular; the last print run was considerably less. If groups have old where to find books please recycle there so that accurate information can be distributed.

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UKCNA31

Request that no one else is to sell merchandise or literature without permission, until after a certain time on the Sunday of the event.

Action for RCMs - put out service positions

Approximately £7042.26 in the bank - £5.99 discrepancy

There is a member in an Area who bought a permit to sell merchandise with the NA logo on.

The member would have to approach the committee and seek permission.

In the absence of a secretary, the chair should be taking minutes. Why are there no minutes?

Chair and Treasurer are only positions mandated by RSC. To include full list of trusted servants at the next RSC. To provide notes of the meeting at the next RSC.

UKComms requesting a table at the convention.

Yes, we are happy to facilitate any subcommittee who wants a table.

20% for West Midlands

The ASC can put in a request for the 20% (which has been done).

The event isn't on the website yet. When will this be on?

Before UKCNA31 were given their £4000 seed fund, £303 was given to cover expenses. Does the body want this repaying now, or to return

After the convention, all of the money comes back to the RSC.

Is there a contract with Birmingham?

There is a verbal agreement for the next three years that we have the same date every year. 12 months notice required, with no financial penalty.

Are there fliers available?

Can UKPI have space to put their survey out?

Yes.

Is there anything Comms can do to spread the word about service positions that are available?

We are actively searching for people to join the committee. All expenses are reimbursed.

Ad-hoc Committees

Vision UKSO

19 yes

1 no

1 abstention

1 present not voting

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Treasurer Report

Balances

Prudent Reserve £12300.00

Opening Balance £16519.46

Contributions £9489.60

Expenses (£6663.90)

Closing Balance £19345.16

Cheques to be bank £773.02

Treasurer and Chair attended the bank and organised transfers to EDM £2350 & WSO £1601.56.

Discussed this morning about fuel claiming. 17p per mile of fuel used.

After going through the UKH&I spreadsheet, serious concerns have been raised. The UKH&I committee will be audited between this RSC and the next RSC. This is part of normal procedure.

Treasurer and Vice Chair will attend the next UKH&I meeting. To bring £500 cash to reimburse expenses upon receipts being provided.

Currently UKH&I have three signatories on the account including the RSC treasurer. Treasurer has been asked by UKH&I to sign blank cheques. Further concerns were raised after discovering previous signatories have been signing blank cheques for some time.

£127.10 for FLO on the spreadsheet for NYE, no further information included.

Stipend is £2500 which is considerably higher than other subcommittees.

UKH&I are currently the only subcommittee at RSC that don't have access to online banking. Treasurer has offered to help set this up.

RD Report

Several areas have asked if RD can attend a CAR Workshop. Possibly in Wigan, another possible in London. Please can each of these areas confirm dates and venues then confirm with RD. All areas will be liable for the cost of the RD + ARD's travel unless the area is under their prudent reserve, in which case the area can apply to Region for funding.

If RCMs would like ZOOM meetings, this could be arranged.

New Business

Default Location - Size & Budget

The Admin committee are making the decision to change the default venue to Preston because the venue in Manchester is not suitable.

Several RCMs expressed interest in increasing the budget available to host the RSC in order to increase accessibility for bids.

Motion to increase budget to £800.00 for venue hire for the weekend, including tea and coffee.

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Merchandise and literature at the Convention

Farsi ASC unhappy that Farsi merchandise will not be allowed to be sold at the UKCNA.

Public Liability Insurance

Further discussion took place about RSC funding nationwide public liability insurance. This discussion was inconclusive.

Close of Business

