**E&M Intergroup Minutes, August 2022**

Present - Grace (Chair), Richard (Sec), Steve (Armed Forces), Lisa S (Happy Wednesday), Jemma (Region), Maria (Treasurer), Sarah (EPP), Evans (Observer), Chloe (LWTW), Marie (CoTGS)

Apologies - Brian, Ash, Mark W, Jeannette,

Approval of last months minutes -

Approved - YES

Proposed - Jemma

Agenda Items -

First item, Jemma updating on what's going on at Region about other groups.

One thing needing to be highlighted is that over the last 2 years 3 intergroups have closed dropping the total from 9 to 6.

We are an area of 37 groups with only 3 groups represented at intergroup. Edinburgh has a problem and intergroup is potentially at risk of closing.

We abide by 36 principles, but there could be a massive impact on the area of We folded. The E&M website would disappear and all groups would be displaced. Groups need to be registered with an intergroup. Would the groups even realise this?

Intergroup money covers group insurance, this would disappear and the groups would be open to liabilities.

We are here to serve the groups but we also are the link to region.

This is something we need to address or we could potentially fold.

We do have the tools to solve this, but tue tools need to be implemented through the traditions.

If the groups aren't employing us we are actually redundant.

Comments on this -

Was there any common there? Covid, zoom etc?

Response - not provided with the how's and whys but can ask.

Could intergroup go back to face to face?

What can do? Could we put together a workshop explaining what intergroup is all about. Many people are terrified before actually coming.

Possibly speak to previous chair about what things were done to encourage people to intergroup.

Intergroup is a great opportunity tonbe given, nothing to gain or lose and its worth it and this should be shown to the groups.

Second Item -

Intergroup inventory, this will be a recurring item for the coming months.

Comments -

Possible information sessions? Group visits? Posters?

Trying things that have been done in the past and not worked might work now? Intergroup reputation always been poor, it is different now, how do we change the perception? Can we ask groups what the issues are? How do we help people understand that what they do or dint do makes the difference.

Tough to know what to say. Could potentially go bsck to face to face? Face to face meetings seem more popular? Lots of younger people coming in these days. Looking at mentors?

The power of one person putting out their hand and talking through this stuff. Could we be more proactive bringing people in rather than just randomly asking people. Encourage people to observe. How to do we get existing GSRs to attend and submit reports? Education opportunities important and helpful. But what's the hook to encourage people along?

Been with intergroup some time now, old impression was that you had to be an old timer etc. New blood could definitely improve intergroup. We could revisit old ideas and try things again. Lets get 12 stepping people in, support them to take part.

I joined intergroup when I was desperate, do I still have that same desperation just now? Probably not, sobriety has given me life back now and it's busy. I would be willing to go to Gayfield and do a 5 minute talk, could this be replicated across the area? Let them see how passionate we are.

Echoing what other people have said. Poor reputation in the past but how do we change that culture? We need to get the word out..... we could approach groups and speak to them at their business meetings. Education is the way forward. Do we look at what educational stuff can be done to entice people in? Come and learn about the traditions..... intergroup is more accessible on zoom and run efficiently. We need to demystify and get the word out that we work for the groups.

Love the idea of bring a friend. Was very intimidated initially but don't feel that way now. Zoom is amazing and more accessible. Teaching about the traditions would be useful.

Seems like a couple if big themes, an external message needing to be broadcast to everyone about what we do and an internal discussion about new and existing people feeling Comfortable about their role.

We need to move into looking at some suggestions about how we move forward.

Wondered about having 30 mins before intergroup as an open newbie session to raise questions.

We could ask people about the date, time, format, promote it on the website. We could have a leaflet with info on intergroup. Possibly reduce the sobriety requirements.

Like the idea of bring a buddy and demystifying intergroup. Think this is very important. There is a "now I'm GSR " pamphlet on the AA website we could use. Possibly put on an in person event with workshops.

The idea of giving someone a leaflet and having it explained would make me feel less intimidated. Feedback to groups and ask them what's putting them off?

Direct them to the service structure handbook.

Love the idea of bring a buddy and a small chat at groups. Do this informally, encourage people to ask questions.

Groups are autonomous so they would need to be OK with us coming, so how do we do this?

Action points

Can everyone here to ight try and bring a buddy to next meeting.

Contacting groups to ask if we can attend their business meetings. Separate email or poster (Richard) to go out to groups asking permission to attend.

Rather than just one person have a rota system to attend groups if we get positive responses. We could discuss a rota at next meeting.

Need to be aware of people's restrictions on attending meetings.

Instead of it being this layout could we make it an event. A separate event and invite all the groups. Create a buzz about it. Drop the formality.

Next month's agenda discuss the bring a buddy and speaking at groups business meetings.

Jemma offered to create a visual flyer for the bring a buddy and by next month a visual flyer fir us attending business meetings.

Agenda item gir the bring a buddy to have an educational element, Grace to look at this.

Treasurer's Report

Report emailed

PI Report

Emailed

YP Report

No report provided

Literature Report

No Report Provided

Employment Report

No report provided

Armed Forces Report

No report provided

Archivist Report

No report provided

Website Report & Emails

No report provided

Prisons

No report provided

Telephones Report

No report provided

Roundabout

No report provided

Health

No report provided

Region Report

Report Emailed out

Region Report, the treasures report was an agreement to send money to York and some for PI. Issues with the signatory, still a few thousand pounds left.

Response - ongoing issues with the account and the bank changing things over. 2 signatories required but the bank have been making this difficult. Region are very aware. Its an ongoing issue, Region are trying but the bank are making it difficult. Hopefully it will be resolved soon.

Will there be more info about the Region public forum event.

It's a PI Event that will cover Scotia Region in Livingston. 27th October. Lots of invites going out.infornstion session about what is AA then an open live meeting. Jemma looking for contacts so if anyone has any ideas send their info to Jemma.

AOCB

Agenda Items for next month, attending business meetings and bring a buddy.

All group and liaison reports to be with Richard for 21/09/22 by 5pm (ish) 

Date of next meeting - 29/09/22 (7 for 7.15)