E&M Intergroup Minutes September 2023

Present - Grace (Chair), Richard (Sec), Josh D (Prison), Dougie (PI), George (Stockbridge Monday), Steve (Convent), Sarah (EPP), Gordon (Uptown&Sober), Ali (Ed1st), Ewan (Seaside Serenity), Christine (Manic Monday), Fi (Observer), William (Observer), Peter (Observer), Andy (Observer), Chloe (Lipstick with the Winners)

Apologies - Lisa, Colin, Maria, Jemma

Approval of last months minutes -

Approved - YES (Richard to edit to reflect point 1 relates to £20 for the room not for storage)

Proposed - George

Comment - Some groups do not appear to know about the vacancies. Grace explained the groups are not well represented at intergroup and the minutes are shared on the website. We hope some groups might like ti be represented at intergroup.

George mentioned it wouldd be useful to have explicit messages in the WhatsApp group relating to important things needing fed back to groups. Richard happy to go this going forward. It has been done in the past but not consistently.

2. Dougie discussing safeguarding and the use of bad language in meetings. He has asked that we consider reading a statement at the beginning of intergroup. Intergroup has had a couple of instances of bad language this year. The statements origin is GSO The statement would be -

Proposal - that we read a sentence relating to bad language at the start of the meeting.

Discussion - seems like a good proposal, we don't need a long paragraph, a good idea, in favour, I go to meetings that use it and it works well, in favour, these small statements are perfect, in principle yes, it's a good statement, I think it's a good idea, need to go with something short and sweet, it's good but it may be worth looking at an attitude of respect as sometimes bad language just happens, also agree the focus should maybe be inclusion rather than just bad language.

Dougie referred to the GSO document. He raised the bad language aspect as it was specifically brought to him.

Grace says that in general we are in favour, with maybe an addition about being inclusive. Grace suggests that the statement be added into the agenda and we can see how that works in November. The group agrees to this. Hrace reminds everyone this decision only relates to intergroup.

3. Fully secure storage not available at the Convent, they suggested we purchase a lockable box. Is the group willing to take ghe risk? Currently George and Colin are responsible for bringing the equipment. The monitor is the problem. George suggests the monitor could be locked via a Kensington lock. Ali suggested if a box was bought a chain to go round it. The equipment would require a big box.

If the monitor was in the room then other groups could use it. We will need to approach the Convent about his.

George said that having had monitor mounted on the wall would be ideal. This would involve work with hhe Convent.

Action- Colin to speak to Convent about whether they are happy with yhd principle that the monitor remains in the room. Group agreed to this.

4. Colin and Marie offer outreach to the Ritson, they ask for everyone to take the opportunity to get involved with this.

Prison report - Things happening and PVGs are ongoing. Gordon is in. Communicating can be slow. Josh was trying to get a women in but women are no longer housed at Saughton.

The chit system - working with the guys on remand, there as long as not convicted, they then get released or moved to a part of the lrison we dint have access to.

Josh had meeting with procurator fiscal to fisciss diversion. They seemed open to this. Josh has capacity to start with this. A meeting needs to be had with social work.

Gordon has been to the alcohol court in Glasgow and Josh working on whether we can implement a similar system in Edinburgh.

Things are moving slow, but the right people are interested. People are looking to provide better links between criminal justice and AA.

Josh to check with York on the reasonable relationship to ensure sticking within the traditions and guidelines.

Gordon confirms what Josh is doing. Gordon now the Region liaison officer for criminal justice and Prisons. Gordon also becoming part of a sub committee. Things moving slowly but they are moving.

Dougie asks how the chit system will work. In the past groups have not been consistent. Josh has information on this to gd shared with groups. Groups would needs to register and in time the website would likely hold a section for the system.

Groups can register for the chit system now. The website should say which groups are part of the system.

Question around the alcohol courts, should we be careful that we are not endorsing outside agencies.

All that really happens is we turn up at court and catch people there to hand out cards and speak to them at the invitation of the court.

All we want is more opportunities to carry the message abd sheriff Fleming in Glasgow has been instrumental in making it work in Glasgow and should something similar be set up in Edinburgh it would likely mirror the Glasgow service.

There is appetite for this.

There is potential for intergroup to provide updates on this and the importance of reports.

We need to be careful that we are not giving an opinion on certain things. Gordon confirms we are there by invitation and not involved in decision making. Still appears to be a bit blurred and maybe some further clarity required on this.

Josh going to make an updated document clarifying everything as a lot of information shared. This will be shared with the group.

Action points -

1. - GSRs to take this back to groups.

2. - The website will need to be updated to reflect groups that registered abd offer the system.

Willy asks Josh whether he attends meetings to discuss this as he has a string message on this topic and it might be worthwhile. Josh agrees this would be a good idea and is happy to attend meetings to bring people on and make them aware of what's going on.

AOCB

Ali asking about the wording of open and closed meetings on the website and how the wording potentially doesn't make sense to newcomers.

Grace suggests that Edinburgh 1st could put together a proposal and set in to be added to the agenda in November.

Gordon- where to finds 500 printed and 250 to be shared between Palmerston and Gayfield and 250 brought up to intergroup for people to take.

Groups to keep an eye on how the where to finds are handed out and whether they are going or we are holding stock.

Gordon reminds if there are any errors, omissions, or new meeting please get in touch via the website contact form as the where to finds information is lifted directly from the website.

We have a PI workshop with Dougie on the last Thursday of October.

Please have group and liaison officer reports to Richard by 22/11/23.

Next IG meeting is a hybrid meeting 30/11/23 (7 for 7.15).