

Safe guarding proposal, 2023-10-19

Over a number of (Friday) group consciences, safe guarding issues were discussed and Vasco summarised the discussion as:

1. When someone behaves inappropriately, either at a meeting, or in private with another fellow, they may be readmitted if they are willing to make amends, express a sincere desire to stop addictive sexual behaviour, and are able to articulate why their previous action was wrong.

Where there is either a public offense (e.g., disruption at a meeting), or a private offense that may endanger the welfare of the group (e.g. attempt at sexually inappropriate conduct in private), the group should decide on whether any measures should be taken in an interim stage. Where the injury is entirely private, then consultation with the aggrieved party is appropriate, mediated by the secretary or another officer. The group need not be told the details of the incident, but should be told there was one and that the person is subject to whatever measures are agreed.

2. De-escalation: if there is an incident during a meeting, this should be handled by a request from the chair to follow the spirit and traditions of the meeting. If the offending party does not comply, they should be asked to leave, and if they refuse, the meeting should be terminated immediately. Fellows should make a point to back the secretary, and where a fellow is in solitude, they should be approached thus removing a 1-1 threat. Any fellow who feels threatened afterwards should be safely escorted home or to a safe location.

3. We agreed to have a statement read at the beginning of each meeting, and use the Bristol statement as a template, but one to which we might make further changes. This should be made into a leaflet to be distributed to members, and included in the newcomer pack.

Group Conscience 2023-09-01

We agreed with the proposal from Marc to adopt the following welcome message for introducing newcomers to the WhatsApp group:

Hi <newcomer>,

Welcome to our home group.

Please be aware of our group guidelines:

This group is for communication with fellows about home group business. It is also for members to share about their experience of recovery, recovery literature/media, and requests for calls or fellowship.

It is NOT for general chat or banter.

We should always be mindful of the 12 traditions when messaging, especially tradition 1: “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon SAA unity”.

Please do not give opinions or criticise.

Group Business 2023-02-24

We agreed to follow the Monday group re approval of the revised “Letter to Newcomers”.

Group Conscience 2022-08-22

We discussed and voted on the following:

- 1) Do we simply allow WhatsApp access to anyone who identifies as a sex addict and wants to join the Birmingham group? This includes people that we have never met but are in the wider network of SAA contacts (e.g. referrals from other fellows).
- 2) Or should the Birmingham WhatsApp group be just for active Birmingham attendees and people who were in the old groups and confirmed that they wanted to be moved into the new group?

With a narrow margin, the consensus reached by voting was proposal 2.