

AVP Newsletter July/August 2016

Edited by Margot Lunnon, 07766 758 405, FML25@hotmail.co.uk with the support of Ops Committee

Training in Scotland, see pictures

They now have 5 new facilitators (upper picture), 5 people with mental health first aid certificates (second picture) and some people who can do physical first aid. Impressive, or what? I hope to hear what the mental health first aid training involved



Besides the two Scottish **TforFs**, there has also been one in Leeds, and one in Parc Prison South Wales... A **T forF** is planned for Bamford in November... Five **T for Fs** in one year!

Surveys: the mini survey of this newsletter attracted 5 responses. One expressed disappointment but even that

one was supportive overall; the others were all welcoming. Are more than 5 people reading the newsletter?? Meanwhile the **Trustees have sent out a set of questions** which was supposed to attract answers by 25 July but the survey was terribly well hidden in the email. Here are the questions and the response address in case you might still like to respond.
AMCO-CHAIRAVPB@BTINTERNET.COM

What is going well in AVP?

Regionally
Nationally

What are the challenges?

Regionally
Nationally

What is your vision of AVPB in 5 years time?

To what extent could any of the following of the following help to realise your vision of the future?

- Have a National Co-ordinator
 - Have more 3-day workshops
 - Have more flexible models of delivery
 - If so please give examples. e.g. delivered monthly
 - Improve communication and networking between Regional Co-ordinators.....
 - What else do you think is needed
- Continue on another page if you need to write more.

Temporary disaster in Manchester (NW Region)

The office computer crashed on Monday 20th June. According to Lance this was because Microsoft tried to update it to Windows 10 even though the computer was not compatible. Lance came to the office immediately and rescued all the data on the computer. We ordered a new computer straight away and received it on in two days. However it needs a special adapter which we are still waiting for. Alan has been using his personal laptop in place of the office computer. To prevent an inability

to continue working in the event of a similar breakdown, purchasing another



computer/laptop is an immediate consideration. Lance has suggested we wait for our new marketing assistant to start work and discuss her needs with her. <New machine now in use.>

National Gathering Woodbrooke Sat to Sunday 24-5th September, Woodbrooke, B29 6LJ.

Keynote speaker:

Tim Newell, former prison governor, now of Escaping Victimhood

<http://www.escapingvictimhood.com/what-we-do/>. If you have not booked already do so now!

*At the National Gathering, all being well, each facilitator will get a copy of the **Revised Manual**, currently being reviewed by several facilitators. Yet another task completed by the Operations Committee. They are gearing up to start relaunching mentoring, and analysing the feedback forms, among other tasks*

A future for AVP finances? And national support?

This article is based on finance figures supplied for NW Region and on an idea I had years ago.

What we are here to do is to make AVP's ideas about self esteem and cooperative living available to as many people as we can. The measure of how we are doing is the number of workshop completions in a year.

Workshops are delivered by the Regions. The function of the Centre is basically to help the Regions deliver more and better workshops.

Eight years or so ago we had the support of some Trusts to provide salaries for one or more national officers. However, the existence of national support did not, *I believe*, enhance the number of completions, though it may for a time have enhanced the quality.

We cannot now secure Trust funding for standard work; grants have got to be the icing on the cake. For standard work we have to raise our own funds, be it from donations or (more predictably) from workshop charges.

(Donations can make an appreciable difference. Years ago I was raising £2500 per year from Quaker meetings across the country, and we have twice had donations in the £000s, besides the little ones. Nor am I counting the blessed dollops given us as needed by Hubert Cassel's family trust.)

I think it is generally agreed that our workshops rarely run with as many people as we would like to have on them. We should be able to cope with 16 comfortably, yet we sometimes run workshops with only 6 participants. If we were able routinely to run workshops with 16 participants, of whom the majority paid full charge, we would earn enough money to pay for part time salaries, regionally and/or centrally.



Here are some figures to support this. In 2014-15 NW Region had 182 participants. If we assume that they ran 2 workshops per month for 10 months of the year, the typical attendance was 9 per workshop. 16 is nearly double that.

Their *net* earnings from workshops were £9,370. (This is net of direct costs, it is not net of overheads. Overheads accounted for £9000, though they did have other income as well.)

If they had run the same number of workshops at 16 participants, their net income would have been £16,475. Taking away the £9000 already required for overheads, they would have had £7500 in hand to use for staff support.

£7500 is one-quarter of an annual salary of £30,000. If one allows for pension, training, and line management we might call it one-sixth of an annual salary, that is, a salary for a bit less than one day per week. If more than one Region contributed, we could have national support at the rate of number-of-contributing-Regions times 1/6 of Full Time.

This is Pie In The Sky until workshops run full. Hence the most urgent need for support is with Marketing, to get ever nearer to running all-full workshops. (The second most urgent need, though I have not made the case for this, is for Expertise: to make sure we know as much as possible about other developments in conflict resolution *and they know about us.*)

MARGOT LUNNON

Responses to this very much welcomed!