



**Minute of the General Meeting of Members  
Scottish Alcohol Counselling Consortium (SCIO)  
held on-line  
on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Present**

Lesley Ross, GCA (Glasgow Council on Alcohol) chair of meeting; Meichelle Walker, ELCA (Edinburgh and Lothians Council on Alcohol); Fergus McCurley, TCA (Tayside Council on Alcohol); Kerry McGee, ACA (Ayrshire Council on Alcohol); John Macdonald DACA (Dumbarton Area Council on Alcohol); Sarah White FASS (Fife Alcohol Support Service)

**Apologies** Mark Vance, WLDAS (West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service); Mike Tweedle, New Way.

**In attendance**

Vivienne Brown (SACC Co-ordinator)

**1. WELCOME and APOLOGIES**

Lesley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given.

Apologies were received from Mark Vance, WLDAS. Mike Tweedle, New Way had hoped to join but thought he may have issues with on-line connection.

**2. MINUTE OF GMM HELD ON 8th FEBRUARY 2023**

The minute of the last General Meeting of Members was presented for information and was agreed as accurate by Meichelle Walker and Fergus McCurley.

There were no matters arising.

**3. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022-2023**

Lesley introduced the Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31st March 2023 which had been previously circulated.

There were no issues arising and the accounts were accepted.

Further to the key achievements for year 2022-23, highlighted in the annual report, Lesley provided a brief update on SACC's current work.

- 2024-25 is the final year of 3-year core funding from the Scottish Government. Having this core funding in place has enabled SACC to take forward our aims and objectives with the ability to plan ahead. SACC hopes to have discussions with Scottish Government colleagues around future funding over the coming months.
- SACC has also managed to secure small grants from The Hope Trust and Hugh Fraser Foundation for 2024-25.
- The new role of Training Development Officer has been established. This was achieved within existing funding as the SACC Co-ordinator reduced working hours.
- For some time, SACC board has felt that the knowledge and experiences of SACC member organisations, and the people who use their services, could offer much to the overall understanding of alcohol harm across Scotland. SACC has set up a small subgroup to develop a research brief and to explore funding, partners and researchers to take this forward.
- SACC held another joint national web event in partnership with NES (NHS Education Scotland) around psychosocial interventions for alcohol and other drug use in February 2024.

#### **4. RETIRAL and ELECTION OF BOARD TRUSTEES**

In September 2023, Gary Meek, chair of SACC for several years, stood down from the role when he left GCA to take up a new post. Lesley Ross was warmly welcomed by the board, as GCA rep. The current board noted their thanks to Lesley for stepping into the role of interim chair.

Jim Bett, FASS - another long-standing SACC Board member - retired from FASS and the SACC board during 2023.

All trustees were thanked for their ongoing contribution to SACC and, as is standard procedure, all stood down from the board as follows -

John Macdonald, DACA; Fergus McCurley, TCA; Kerry McGee, ACA; Lesley Ross, GCA and Meichelle Walker, ELCA.

Lesley emphasised that SACC board are very keen to have new members and asked representatives to consider joining the board.

All current members of the board expressed willingness to continue for another year and were re-elected to the board.

Sarah White, Counselling Services Co-ordinator, FASS also volunteered to join the board and was elected to the board.

Office bearers were elected as follows –

Chair – Lesley Ross, GCA; Secretary - Fergus McCurley TCA; Treasurer - Meichelle Walker, ELCA.

## **5. DISCUSSION – ANNUAL STATS REPORT 2022-23**

The draft SACC report ‘Counselling Provision Across Member Organisations 2022-23’ had been circulated to members with meeting papers.

Lesley thanked all member organisations who submitted information to enable this report to be pulled together.

The report was welcomed by members. Vivienne Brown, SACC Co-ordinator highlighted key points from the report. Members were asked for comment and provided the following feedback during discussion -

- The numbers of other agency and self-referrals are influenced by referral processes for some organisations.
- Face-to-face counselling sessions do seem to be valued by most clients. Face-to-face sessions provide the social aspects of coming into a venue and routine for clients. On-line counselling is least favoured by clients.
- Providing supervision for counsellors is proving problematic for some organisations – there are a lack of applications for posts and external supervisor work in some areas; some organisations do not have funding for external supervisors - making it impossible to take on more trainee counsellors or volunteers.
- As a national consortium SACC membership provides a stronger voice for individual member organisations.
- SACC provides a network for peer support, sharing information, keeping up to date with what’s going on and a safe space from a manager’s perspective.

The above comments will be included in the final report.

## **6. DATE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING FOR MEMBERS**

Lesley thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the meeting.

General Meetings for Members must be held within 15 months. It is the intention to hold the next meeting around February / March 2025. The date will be set nearer the time.