





Agenda and Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting – Saturday 14th March 2026

at The Auctioneer, Carlisle 10:30 hrs to 15:30 hrs

Item No	Agenda Item	Notes	Actions	Check Done
1	President Shirley Welcome	<p>We are here because we care. Think about the women who support and guide us. Today is for looking at programme action.</p> <p>President Shirley was pleased to present Dorothy Thomson with her chain of office as SINE President Elect.</p>	 <p>Achieved: One of my aims to have Programme Action Group</p>	
2	Vision and Mission read by SI Cockermouth			
3	In Memoriam	<p>Lynzi Crinson – SI Stockton On Tees - Given by Joyce Chesney. Sadly, only with the club for a short while until she died. Lynzi at 61 had been very unwell when she joined, but was very involved, had a busy life.</p>	 <p>In Memoriam Lynzi Crinson SI Stockton-On-Tees</p>	
4	Roll Call: Cockermouth: Lindsay Edmiston / Barbara Williams / Jane Shaw / Jude Spencer / Martha Dewis / Mandy Lloyd-Martin / Penny Lloyd-Martin / Sue Mendus / Claire Rawlinson / Doreen Bertram / Bethan Hill-Gorst / Moira Rogers Darlington: Sue Williams / Dot Thompson Middlesborough: Carole Singer Newcastle: Christine Tomkins / Christine Lumsdon South Shields: Susan Dixon / Dorothy Seth Sunderland: Joan Heckels Stockton: Margaret Wall / Christine Graham / Maureen Scott / Joyce Chesney / Caroline Allred Tynedale: Norah Thornthwaite Tynemouth and Whitley Bay: Shirley Hallam-Gould / Pat Jefferson Associates: Patricia Gatherum 29 Attendees Apologies from Regional Officers: Christine Cottingham – Treasurer Apologies due to illness on the day: Cockermouth: Elizabeth Hall Newcastle: Pam Turner Tynedale: Margaret Miller			
5	Minutes of Last meeting 15/11/25	Judith Spencer raised an amendment to minutes, and a paragraph is to be added	<p>Secretary CR waiting for details to be forwarded so they can be included.</p> <p>Revised minutes issued with March RCM Minutes</p>	
6	Matters Arising – not on the agenda.	None		
7	Regional Officers Reports 1. President – Shirley Hallam-Gould 2. Treasurer – Christie Cottingham 3. Secretary – Claire Rawlinson 4. Programme Action – Christine Tomkins 5. Safeguarding/Dispute Resolution – Joan Heckels	<p>President SH gave an overview of her report previously circulated – Members are advised that it is also on the website.</p> <p>Treasurer CC apologies as unwell but asked if there where any questions. – None.</p> <p>Secretary CR - Summarised report previously circulated.</p> <p>Programme Action Chair CT – Reported on her joy of meeting with Club PA reps on the 1st Monday of each month to share ideas and understand what Clubs are progressing. She touched on a proposed regional project which will be discussed later the agenda.</p> <p>Safeguarding – JH apologies as no update as SIGBI not completed the planned documents at this time but hopes to pick up in the next two weeks. Likewise, documentation of Dispute Resolution has still not been updated.</p>		

	6. O&D / Membership – Caroline Allred	O&D CA - Club Health Check – It has been reviewed and updated for Clubs to use. Considered a useful tool to review, Club actions, projects, succession, partnership work, etc. This is alongside Clubs organisational and development plan. as review of the effectiveness, strength and direction of your Club. Membership. Need something “short and sharp” to show new members. Social Media focus. Sue Williams talked of the new tools/resources on the Hub. E.g. Business cards, leaflets etc, which you might find of help in recruiting.	1) Asked Clubs to Look at the last four new members, how did they come to you. Respond to CA. 2) Clubs – Look at resources on Hub.	
8	Federation Reports 1. FLC – Joyce Chesney 2. Benevolent Fund – Dorothy Seth	JC – Two reports previously shared. JC asked if the 2 questions in the reports had been discussed at clubs. 1 Conference Annually or Biennially – swapping with a PA event? Discussion was held on the floor, but clubs are asked to discuss this. Points made such as: More affordable is every two years / Numbers dropped so significantly / Impact on SIGBI employee Joanne Voller as her main task is to plan these. / 2027 concern that international convention in Prague is close to conference time. 2 Should we have a Federation Project? Comparison was made with the successful project of Meru and the last one failing due to partnership structure changing and no longer meeting criteria for the project to continue. Discussion held on the floor – Issue of raising finance (in past most of it came from UK need other member states to participate / For any project to succeed there is a need for good partnership in the receiving country to support both sides. JC – Her term of office ends in October and asks members to consider the role. DS – Benevolent fund – Nothing new other than only a few cases; none from SINE region.	Clubs to discuss both questions and feed back to JC, by the end of the month. FLC nominations for interested members.	
9	Regional Officers 2026/27 and Federation Vacancies – Claire Rawlinson	New roles produced – they are for a term of 4 years. (2 +2 rather than 3+3) CR talked through regional roles and holders and structure. Discussed job share and knowledge sharing. Federation roles – Most roles open as per recent SIGBI notice. Deadline for nominations 27/3/26.	1) Share with members. 2) Regional Officers list to be updated on website.	
10	Any Other Business	Inserted: Prior discussion about pin card reader for fund raising events and difficulty in getting one. Needed to be a business or charity. Clubs successful in getting card readers could they share information. Website changes: In discussion, and unlikely to hear for 6 to 9 months. No Further Action at this time other than recommend reviewing websites in preparation.	Please share information from those club/s who have been successful in getting a pin card reader.	
11	Regional Programme Action Project – Introduction – Christine Tomkins	CT introduced the proposed Regional Project – slide presentation. – Out lining the Aims, Actions and targeted outcome BUT today asking for Clubs to vote on a name for the project. The project is based on SI Cockermonth and Districts idea of producing orange flower badges with the aim to get all 650 MPs wearing them during the 16 days of action. The hope is that all clubs can work together. SINE funds £50 have been allocated to initial costs for the badge ribbons and need further discussions on accessing orange yarn for the flowers e.g. charity shops. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed contacts already made that recommend best day for MP’s is Wednesday PMQ and they could be handed a badge as they queue to enter the house. JC advised we need to involve Federation. Sue Williams asked what the target per club and time line. Min 65 and Sept 26 regional meeting. 	View Proposal on Website on Programme Action Page. Includes crotchet and knitting pattern. CSW Lindsay Green and President Gillie need to be alerted asap. Action for SH	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other discussion points: Suggest SIGBI day to getting this into parliament / Could give out the badges on the train going down to London / Contacting our MP's and those MP's where there is no longer a Club. <p>Members were asked for their choice of name for the project from a short list of four. Votes were taken over the lunch time and by consensus selected: ORANGE PETALS – A Future Free from VAWG.</p>		
12	President Shirley's Comments and Close of meeting	Clearly there are a range of things to find out but SH is positive that this "Orange" project has legs. President Shirley advised she will be speaking with President Gillie and Lindsay Green very soon.		

Programme Action Interactive Session – Three projects to be presented and report from Clubs on programme action in their area.				
Women and Girls Safety on Public Transport	<p>President Shirley outlined the project on and working in partnership with the Women's Safety Group and the public transport company Go North East.</p> <p>Go North East are very keen to progress and incorporate our experiences into the training they deliver to drivers (male and female) and management around this issue of safety. SH and the WSG will be reviewing the training slides but need the feedback to enhance this training project which is hoped will be shared nationally.</p> <p>An introduction video from the GO North East representative Gary Edmundson was shown to members, followed by a demonstration on how to access and complete the online survey.</p> <p>SHG will be attending a webinar to discuss and progress this further.</p> <p>Note: there is a SIGBI PA Webinar on Sat 18 April at 1.30pm (sign up on the Hub) where there will be some important Reports and Action from the SIGBI Women's Safety Group. President Shirley has a 10 minute slot reporting on SINE's work with Go Ahead North East.</p>	<p>Link to Presidents Report outlining the Transport Project</p> <p>Link To Transport Survey</p>	<p>Please access the survey by 31/5/26</p>	
Cervical Cancer – Testing and Vaccine Report	<p>Report from SI Cockermouth and District – Mandy Lloyd-Martin</p> <p>Improving Cervical Cancer Awareness and testing. SIGBI video was shown and Mandy then talked about her work with health contacts to see how we could improve awareness e.g. GP primary care nursing. Arranged for video on loop in surgery waiting rooms, improved the text message to include link to test request. Further plans to speak with other partners e.g. student nurses</p> <p>HPIV vaccination promoting take ups and to negate drop outs.</p> <p>Sue Williams – SIGBI /SI Darlington – talked about SIGBI health projects. Working with ICC Boards to improve vaccine take up. Provided a good overview of related work being done at Federation and international level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressing the project in Trinidad in Tobago. India keen to progress and continue spreading the word though the world. In touch with pharmaceutical companies to promote vaccination. Working with women in policing to encourage screening and vaccination. Further actions to health agencies, and other actions including a petition to Parliament. Info on self-testing was talked about. Introduced Jan 2026. This should radically change things. Felt this of great interest to many groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please share and spread the word. 	<p>LINK to SIGBI web page on Cervical Cancer and the Video</p> <p>Review resources on HUB to promote these projects. To be found in members area of the Hub under Library</p>		

<p>Reports from Clubs</p>	<p>PA Chair – intro reports from Clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cockermouth – Penny Lloyd-Martin Reporting on Micro Financing / ongoing cervical screening / Farming – Thinking how we might support Women in Farming/ more orange the world work – More work need to create a “Orange Splash” – walks or wild swimming /join with MU WI IW Rotary so see if can coordinate in the 16 days / Looking at Teenage girls and what is a Health Relationship to promote. • Middlesborough - Carol Singer on cervical cancer. Needed to modify resources to support our multicultural population. Took this to various events. Using links at the Foodbank has been very effective. • Stockton – President Elect Maureen - Work done on International Women’s Day – followed others’ idea – and (after an amusing anecdote about how the flowers where sourced) presented flowers to a local care home which was well received. Good to talk - Joyce Chesney talked to a lady on the train, when she was travelling to the November FMG in Birmingham, who has now become a member of Newcastle. • Tynemouth and Whitley Bay - Shirley - Roses received very well. Also, lovely coincidence as Jan Robinson handed a rose to a lady whose daughter is in New York for CSW; and is interested. SHG has sent a full list of Club Activities to CT. • Darlington – Barbara Brown apologies - Beer mats gone to 16 pubs go publicity / gifts for lonely and homeless for Christmas Meal / attempting to communicate with MP / collected used stamps / 50 pairs of spectacle for recycling / HPV cards to food bank and will be putting in refuge / notices in local papers mentioning Soroptimists / roses for IWD lovely to see the smiles / tree planting in memory of Gypsy Nichols / Pudding party raised funds to pay for projects. • South Shields - Supporting local charity which is now a food bank and shops / Our Futures – charity hoping to give a bursary for young women to complete education / salvation Army at Christmas / Heaven Helps with furniture / IWD – created green banner in trees near local a bus shelter so it could be seen by many / Asked members to disperse around area. • Newcastle – DT – Continue to support the West End project / raised money for 300 hot Christmas dinners & some gifts for homeless women / IWD Canning Street Primary School have slides and talk with these 9 – 10-year-olds. Really had some good response from them and the feed back from the previous visit / Women and Girl’s centre – creative writing and to see planting of a sapling from Sycamore Gap. <p>President Shirley with Closing remarks Look at all the work that is being done by this region. I feel it is one of the strongest. Thank you for your support and all the work you have put into it. You are women of decision.</p>		
	<p>Meeting closed at 15:15 hrs</p>		