

Help?

No 2

Aim of the session

To help you to take some time to consider issues faced by Circuits Stewards and the kind of solutions you might offer

What you need

- *The questions printed out, cut into single questions and put into a lucky dip style hat or bowl*
- *A watch to keep an eye on the time*

How to do it

- *Explain that in the session you are to imagine you run an “Agony Aunt” style helpline for Circuit Stewards*
- *The answers can come from the group and not just one person.*
- *Encourage each steward in turn to pick out and read a question from the hat*
- *Take 5 minutes as a group to discuss an answer*
- *Take a brief moment to consider whether the issues arising in the answer are relevant in your circuit (they may not always be so)*
- *Close the session with a few minutes thinking about any questions you didn’t have an answer to and if you need to get advice from elsewhere in the District.*

You should probably get through about 6 questions in 45 minutes so you can always use the idea again.

Questions for discussion

- *I am out of my depth, I should never have taken the job on, what can I do?*
- *I feel intimidated by those I work with. Some of them are just so much holier than I am*
- *One of my colleagues really frightens me. It is like I am being bullied to do what she wants.*
- *I just cannot get on with the Superintendent*
- *Even though we have all done the training course, no one really takes it seriously. We are doing the minimum, and no one wants to do more.*
- *I am exhausted, there is just too much to do and I cannot get my head round it*
- *I thought this job would be something about faith and serving God. I feel I am being pulled in every direction but that. Most of the time its endless meetings and arguments.*

- *I am faced with an issue that probably has to do with safeguarding, or it may be a matter of 'discipline' procedures. I have never had to deal with anything like this before. What do I do?*
- *The personalities in our team constantly clash*
- *There are some complicated property and financial issues in the Circuit and the Treasurer has just moved away?*
- *I am really struggling to understand why some of those from different ethnic groups and cultures behave the way they do*
- *The senior Circuit Steward and one of my other colleagues are never here. They are just not doing the job.*

Ideas for what you might do next

- *Run the exercise again but this time with questions arising in your circuit*
- *Take the time to run some development sessions on the areas you struggled most with and invite Circuit Stewards from neighbouring circuits to those sessions*