

## **BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Thicketford Care Centre Thicketford House Bolton.**

There were eleven members and one guest in attendance

#### **Item 1. Welcome and Apologies for absence**

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to all present and particularly to Mari Saeki our guest speaker at this meeting and to David and Teresa Fairbrother who were attending for the first time.

#### **Item 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 at the ASC Healthcare Centre Breightmet.**

The minutes of the above meeting were accepted as a true record.

#### **Item 3. Matters arising**

There was a fairly extensive discussion on the item reported concerning the proposed Buddy System and about which the Chairman highlighted the main components of such a scheme. He also clarified certain issues such as the need for full vetting of volunteers, their training and recruitment and matters of insurance. He re-iterated it was expected a more detailed report would be brought to a meeting early in 2016.

#### **Item 4. Address by Mari Saeki**

As Mari was already well known to all present no further introduction was necessary

Mari gave a far ranging and comprehensive address that included information on the following;

- i) **Progress on the review of the Family services Development Project being undertaken by Salford University.** Mari indicated the family services project had been operating for more than twenty years and had, over this time, grown organically and was now thought to be in need of a value for money review on behalf of the GMAC. The opportunity for people to contribute their views via the online survey had apparently now closed but Mari said she would contact the survey team with a view to allowing additional contributions. Mari went on to indicate areas of work that she and her team would like to investigate, for example, provision of champion's for autism and identifying numbers and needs of females with asc's.
- ii) **Devolution of Health Budget funding from central government to Gt Manchester.** Mari outlined the government's devolution plans in relation to Health Budgets and particularly the role of the BCCG (Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group) in seeking the views of organisations, including the voluntary/charity sector on current and future services including services for people affected by Autism Spectrum Conditions and Mental Health Conditions. This information was cross referenced with the presentation by Hannah Carrington of BCCG who presented at our September meeting.
- iii) **Bolton Autism Partnership Board.** Following references during the above discussion of the need for improved services for people with autism, Mari informed members of the work being undertaken by the Partnership Board, of which she and the Chairman are members. She spoke of the various representative organisations involved and outlined work undertaken so far ( principally, an audit of the council's provision of autism services as matched against the government's traffic light system of scoring) and, together with

the Chairman, spoke of the work the Board had identified for the immediate future. In answer to questions posed by some members, it was acknowledged that progress was much slower than many people would like and both Mari and the Chairman explained this was due to the nature of the local authority having to prioritise its workload across the authority in line with substantial reductions in government funding. In times of severe austerity (such as we are all adjusting to) local authority prioritisation of services takes rather longer than otherwise would be the case)

At the conclusion of Mari's address, the Chairman thanked Mari for yet another extremely informative update on matters relating to Autism at the local regional and national level.

#### **5. Core funding application.**

The Chairman informed members that an application to Bolton CVS for core funding in the sum of nearly £1500.00 had been successful.

#### **6. Annual General Meeting**

The Chairman reminded members that the AGM would be held on November 25<sup>th</sup> commencing at 2.00pm and would be held as usual at Thicketford Care and Community Centre.

#### **7. Any other business**

- i) Following some discussion, it was agreed the December meeting would take place on 16<sup>th</sup> December and would take the form of an informal get together with a bring and share buffet.
- ii) The Chairman informed members that in June of this year, an application to Bolton Wanderers Football Club had been submitted seeking partnership charity status for 2016. Unfortunately, this had not been successful but BAAS had been informed there were other opportunities of benefiting from involvement with the club, such as undertaking a collection on match days etc.

#### **8. Dates of next meetings**

AGM- November 25<sup>th</sup> commencing at 2.00pm

Drop-in at Commerce House 31<sup>st</sup> October 2-4pm