

BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th August 2014

In Attendance were 7 members

2. Welcome and apologies

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Julie Farrar, Tony Shaw and Helen Green.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 30th July 2014.

The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the above minutes.

There were no matters arising

5. Feedback from meeting of New Openings

Eira Heywood reported back from her visit to 'New Openings'. Following her discussions with Eileen Bennet, Eira confirmed she will be attending a meeting With Val Hulme, former officer with the Bolton Commissioning Team, who is now actively involved with the running of a community based drama group in Bolton.

6. Guest Speaker – Mari Saeki from NAS.

The Chairman gave a warm welcome to our Guest Speaker, explaining that she required no introduction as she had attended our meetings a number of times.

Mari gave an update on the National 'Think Autism' Strategy but advised that there had been a 'hold-up' on its implementation and as this was a national scheme they were competing against multi-consortiums for the bid. Mari discussed the merits of the Life Coaching Project, particularly in Trafford where the focus is on 16-25 year olds going through a transition, and the need to focus and develop more schemes of this nature in the future.

Mari advised the group that Bolton MBC are considering 'buying-in' to the scheme on a one-to-one basis and on how to develop ring fenced funding via the implementation of the Care Act which has a main focus on prevention and well-being. Mari welcomed any input the group could offer around prevention strategies.

Mari is presently working with Trafford MBC and the future opportunities to be involved in Life Coaching and underlined the principles involved as being: reminding, organising, promoting, identifying opportunities and promoting social activities within the community and net working.

Mari advised the group that she had recently met with Rachael Tanner (Bolton Council's Autism Strategy Lead Officer) when they had discussed the issues around funding. As requested at the meeting, Mari has worked on a plan specifically around the Bolton Autism Strategy and the need to be pro-active in its implementation in the community; the need to promote agency support and follow-up workshops, specifically on issues relating to the Mental Capacity Act.

Mari advised confirmed that fund raising was becoming more and more difficult and we as a group need to re-think how we apply, particularly as there are restrictions within the NAS around funding etc. There was perhaps a need to look at smaller pots of money or explore fund raising events which would not overlap or create a conflict of interest with partner agencies, suggesting that the ideal model would be one which allowed the group to dip in and out for general support.

Mari felt the future may be for local areas to develop their own provision from the third sector or brokerage and the right to buy-in where funding was available. The Chairman thanked Mari for the feedback, which was most useful and confirmed that the Group would be delighted to assist NAS in any way possible in the future.

7. Chairman's Report

(i) Actions from previous meeting's presentation. The Chairman reported on actions he had responded to from the last meeting.

(ii) Application for membership of the IAG (Independent Advisory Group) in the process of completion. This had now been processed.

(iii) Website Development.

The Chairman provided feedback to the group on the progress of the group's website which will now include links to both Facebook and Twitter each of which will have the necessary safeguarding facility. As it is anticipated that the web site will be going 'live' mid September, the chairman said he would welcome any comments that would improve the web site and asked for comments on the facility to enable users to make small donations.

Application to the Charity Commission.

The Chairman reported that following recent discussion with staff of the BCVS, a new application will be submitted to the charity commission on behalf of the group

(iv) Forthcoming Events.

Wednesday 15th October – AGM of BCVS to be held at Reebok Stadium 12-3pm. At this event local voluntary groups will be able to display advertising boards and host a stall for which volunteers would be required from within the group. Anyone who may be available, please contact the Chairman.

8. Any Other Business:

The Chairman informed the meeting that a sum of £300.00 previously set aside for room hire was now available to support a respite activity for members and welcomed suggestions how this might be spent. Suggestions included a visit to Grassington on the 6th December to visit the Dickensian Fair, and a future trip to the Theatre. **Action:** Eira Heywood to contact coach hire firms for costs etc., and report back to Chairman asap. Information received about this event will be featured on our web site page mid September.

Date of next meetings: Wednesday 24th September at 2pm Thicketford Health Centre.

The next drop-in on Saturday 30th August.