

BOLTON ADULT ASPERGERS SUPPORT

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2015 at Thicketford Care Centre.

1. Present: The Chairman welcomed 9 members and a special welcome to Kath Dagnall who was attending for the first time.

2 Apologies: Apologies were received from Helen Green and Patricia Higson

3. Minutes of last meeting held on January 28th

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed

4. Matters Arising:

The Chairman confirmed that in accordance with discussion at the above meeting, he had forwarded a BAAS flyer to Mari Saeki and she had circulated the leaflet to a number of organisations throughout greater Manchester.

5. The CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported on a number of items as follows:

(i) Presentation of the Care Act 2014

The Chairman and three other members of the group attended the above presentation at 'The Bridge' on Friday 6th February. The presentation was given by Bolton Council's Commissioning team. The Act brings together 13 pieces of legislation and 13 pieces of statutory instruments and represents the most significant and fundamental change to care and support in 60 years. There are two parts to the Act ranging from Wellbeing and Safeguarding, eligibility to carers rights to assessment to prevention, advocacy to partnership working and care accounts and increased funding thresholds.

Age UK gave a presentation and expressed their concerns on how the new Care Act would impact on present services to older people and in particular around issues of safe guarding. The Local Authority confirmed the working model used by Age UK had been identified as the best so far and would be recommended to all community groups.

The full and executive summary of the act can be accessed on the government's website.

The day's event ended with a workshop to share ideas and bring to the table new ideas and also touch on the many areas that the Local Authority had not yet included in the presentation, and which did not meet the concerns of all carers, for example, autism spectrum disorders.

BAAS representatives stressed the importance of the need for commissioning of new services to ensure improvements to wellbeing, transitional arrangements and safeguarding for people with Autism Spectrum conditions.

(ii) Meeting of the Bolton Parent and Carers Consortium

This meeting was also held on the 6th February at the Bolton Council of Mosques and the group was represented by the Chairman and Eira Heywood. The group is a member of the Steering group for the partnership and following the AGM will become an affiliate/associate member (as opposed to a full member) that will still see BAAS playing an important role in the business of the partnership. At this meeting of the partnership a very interesting presentation was made by a Donna McHelinney member of the SALT team.

(iii) Membership of and Interview for the Independent Advisory Group

The Chairman, on behalf of the group has been invited to apply for membership of this group, organised by GMP by way of online application. This has been done and the Chairman invited for interview. The interview was held on 23rd February and the result is awaited.

(iv) Autism partnership steering group

The Chairman, together with Steph Sherratt and Mari Saeki attend this group with the purpose of helping the local authority complete a survey based upon a traffic light system to determine progress made by the authority in meeting its requirements in relation to provision of services for people with Autism. Two meetings have been held and a third is envisaged before the exercise is completed and the results forwarded to the government.

6. World Autism Week

The Chairman reported that World Autism week this year is 27th March to April 2nd and asked if any one has any ideas as to how we might help celebrate this important event to speak to him. He indicated he had had discussions with a local business who were deciding what, if anything they might do to promote WAW and BAAS.

7. Application to the Charity Commission

A new application is being drawn up and is being 'looked over' periodically by Bolton CVS prior to submission to the CC.

8. Any other business

Disco Night – The Millstone on Crown Street Bolton , are holding a disco event every Thursday from 7.30 to 11pm, specifically aimed at vulnerable adults with disabilities. All are welcome but must be accompanied by a carer if needed.

Entrance fee will be £3 at the door.

9. Date and times of next meetings

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th March 2015 at Thicketford Care and Community Centre at 2pm

Next Drop In will be held on Saturday 28th February 2015.