

BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th July at Thicketford Health Centre at 2pm

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to 12 members. Those present introduced themselves to our guest speaker Mr Steve Wallace from ASC Healthcare Centre at Brightmet. Apologies were received from Helen Green and Alison Tomlinson

2.Presentation

Via a laptop presentation Steven Wallace explained the aims and objectives of the new centre for Autism and pervasive Development Disorders.

The Centre has an eighteen bed capacity and facilities to enable clients to learn life skills in readiness for their future within the wider community. Steven advised that all the support on offer was person centred, enabling the client to learn new skills to eventually enable them to live independently.

Average stay is some eighteen months, with a safe, secure and supported transition into an independent or semi independent local housing provider with outreach support.

The aim was to promote and employ locally trained professional staff.

Referrals are mainly from CCG's for people who are on community treatment orders, 117 CPA Orders via CMHT/CMH Act.

Average cost per person per week is £ 2 to 2.5K.

At the conclusion of his presentation, the Chairman thanked Steven for a most informative presentation.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on the 24th June 2015

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 24th June were accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the above

The Chairman advised that the 'buddy scheme' will be subject of a report to a future meeting and asked the group present if they had any ideas with regards the scheme, to let him have this information via e-mail.

5. Seminar update (14th July 2015)

The Chairman advised the group that he had received positive feedback from the delegates and market place stall holders and health professionals via the evaluation sheets and membership has now increased to sixty one. We believe we have met our objectives and expectations.

The Chairman will be sending out a letter of 'thanks' to The Bridge for their excellent customer care service and professionalism that contributed significantly to the overall success of the day.

Charlotte Cadden (Head of Bolton's Police Hate Crime unit) has promised copies of images featured in the Bolton News. The Chairman thanked in particular the Task and Finish Group members for their splendid efforts prior to the seminar and on the day itself which was an 'invaluable contribution' leading to what we believe was a very worthwhile and successful day for all who attended.

The Chairman said that the speakers' presentations had yet to be put on line and advised the Group that Tony Shaw (our present IT specialist volunteer) had expressed a wish to stand down, due to a number of personal commitments and we are now looking for a suitable volunteer to take on these responsibilities, average time spent updating the web site on a weekly basis is usually around two/three hours. Steven Wallace from ASC has kindly offered to ask a member of his team if they would be interested in taking on this task.

6. Notes of recent IAG meeting

The Chairman gave feedback on the meeting of the recently held meeting of the IAG on Monday 27th July, 2015. Discussion was mostly around the increase in 'hate crimes' and the introduction of a twelve locations in and around the community where the public can self refer to report crimes or victims of any form of harassment or bullying. IAG members have been asked to represent undertake mystery shopping visits to the centres to help inform on the success or otherwise of this service. The centres were mostly UCAN Centres and these were to undergo improvements to signage together with a refreshed training programme for staff.

One suggestion made was the introduction of an 'App' which would offer full anonymity and Confidentiality.

The Chairman asked the group if they could think of any other way to improve this service as he will be reporting feedback to the IAG at their next meeting on the 14th September 2015.

7. Application for grants for carers respite trips

The Chairman once again reminded the group present that the recently submitted application to the Bolton CVS was approved and a grant of £1K has been received and asked for feedback from members on suggested trips which might include a day trip to the Lake District,

8. Meeting of Carers Group representatives at the Hub.

The Chairman and Roselle Gorman gave feedback on a recently held meeting for groups in receipt of carers' grants for trips. Issues discussed included:

- The benefits of carers trips
- Presentation of 'Rights of Carers' and the Care Act 2014
- Caring and Assessment Role
- Personal Budgets (£300)
- CHEST (a pot of money specifically for providers)
- Grants from £5 to £50K
- Register of Providers
- Everyday impact on Carers (grants available which are not 'means tested')
- Professional assistance in completing application form

- Carer's advocacy service and Independent Advocacy services available.

9. DBBC -Radio Technique/skills Course

BAAS has been offered four grant assisted places on this course, if anyone is interested or knows of anyone within the group who may be interested in this opportunity to learn new radio technique skills, (age limit is eighteen to twenty-five years) please contact the Chairman for further details.

10.00 Future Events

We have had an offer from ASC to visit their Centre, dates have yet to be finalised and details will be featured on our web page.

11.00 Date and time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 26th August commencing at 2.00pm