

BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2015 at Brightmet Centre for Autism

1. Present

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to those in attendance:

Graham Heywood, Roselle Gorman, Julian Heywood, Tony and Steph Shaw, Barbara Brooks, Pat Higson, Yvonne Ashworth.

2. Welcome

A special welcome to Hannah Carrington, Engagement Officer with NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group and David Scowcroft of the National Autistic Society.

3. Apologies for absence

Eira Heywood, David Higson, Helen Green.

4. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves to Hannah Carrington and David Scowcroft.

5. Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group.

Hannah spoke about her role within the BCCG and about the forthcoming devolution of services to regions and the anticipated effect that such devolution might have for the delivery of healthcare for people in Bolton. She particularly wanted feedback on services currently provided by the BCCG and those potentially new services that were deemed desirable and or essential to improve the lives of people in Bolton. Personal experiences with Doctors' surgeries and matters relating to Autism were fully explored. A lively debate ensued with a number of concerns being expressed by members and the desire to see improved delivery of services for adults with autism spectrum conditions. At the end of the presentation and discussion the Chairman thanked Hannah for her visit and it was agreed that if any further ideas for improvements to services were considered by members, then these would be forwarded to Hannah by the Chairman.

6. Proposed Buddy /Befriending Service.

The Chairman introduced this topic with reference to a written outline proposal that was tabled at the meeting. David spoke about the assistance he felt the NAS could provide in helping us bring about the Buddying/Befriending service. Especially with a view to the training aspects of mentors, facilitators etc. he felt that the training regarding children (up to and including 17 year olds) which was already provided by NAS could be amended to encompass the needs of adults and he was encouraging about the role that both he and the NAS could play in this respect.

The Chairman felt that that this was an opportunity to work in partnership with the NAS but stressed that BAAS was not looking to make a joint funding bid for the project but expressed the view that BASS could quite likely buy in some assistance from NAAS to include for example the recruitment of volunteers and the appointment of a co-ordinator to oversee the work of the volunteers. Furthermore, all matters of volunteer training and management, appropriate insurance and safeguarding issues would be fully explored.

At the end of the discussion it was agreed by members that the Chairman be authorised to pursue the requirements of the proposed scheme and bring back to the members a more detailed proposal for consideration early in the New Year

7. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th August at Thicketford Care Centre

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th August were accepted as a correct record.

8. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

9. Carers' trips

Roselle Gorman had emailed details of Beamish Museum in Northumberland. The Chairman thanked Roselle and agreed this would be a suitable carer's trip for 2016.

The Chairman had not yet had the opportunity to look at an evening trip to the Lowry Theatre. He expected 2 trips and the theatre cost to be met from the carers grant now secured.

10. Management of the BAAS website:

Meetings had taken place with the Chairman, Tony Shaw and David Ramsbottom of the Breightmet Autism Centre and also with the website designers.

At no cost to the charity, management of the website was now to be undertaken by David but with full editorial control being maintained by the Chairman on behalf of the charity.

11. Any other business

The Chairman reminded all that the AGM was in November.

The Chairman informed members that he had submitted an application to the CVS for core funding.

12. Date for next meeting

Wednesday 28th October 2015 at 2pm at Thicketford Road Care Centre.