

# **BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT**

## **Minutes of the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 held at Thicketford Community Care Centre, Thicketford Road, Bolton BL2 2LW**

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

The Chairman gave a special welcome to David Scowcroft of the National Autistic Society and welcomed those in attendance.

Apologies were received from Mari Saeki who is now based at the Stockport office employed on the Family Service Project, Tony Shaw, Steph Shaw and Helen Green.

### **Item 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

The minutes of the March meeting were agreed as a correct record.

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

The Chairman reported that as Helen Bucke had requested, an invoice for £500 had been raised and the funds should now have been received in BAAS's bank account.

At this stage the Chairman requested agreement to bringing forward item 5 The Buddy scheme, as David Scowcroft had to leave the meeting at 3.30pm. Agreement was unanimous.

### **Item 4. Chairman's report – deferred to next meeting.**

### **Item 5. The Buddy scheme - report**

The Chairman thanked David Scowcroft for all his input and read through the report giving explanations:

1. Discussions first took place in October 2015 to establish a Buddy/Befriending scheme.
2. Interviews for a Co-ordinator and, initially, 10 volunteers may be ambitious over a 12-18 month period and it would be quite an involved process to ensure the right type of people were recruited.
3. The Chairman handed out 2 booklets: Policing Autism which featured a self explanatory article and The NAS Befriender, Buddy and Mentor Handbook. Some content in the latter will be amended in conjunction with NAS to suit BAAS for training purposes.
4. The main training will be provided by NAS.
5. BAAS will provide information about the charity and provide Health & Safety training. BAAS Safeguarding Policy is on our website.
6. Where and when training will take place will have to be negotiated but possibly at The Hub (not open Saturday).
7. Following the first round of interviews, a short list will be made and 2<sup>nd</sup> interviews will take place.
8. BAAS will have to secure a grant which will dictate when the process of interviews and training etc. can take place. We do not want to over-manage, so one line of 'reporting' is preferable.
9. The Chairman was asked sent an email to the DBS explaining BAAS' intentions and asking what kind of checks will be queried to fulfil the roles of Co-ordinator & volunteers.
10. Proper Risk Assessments need to be in place.
11. Our scheme will be available to those receiving benefits and/or social care or none on benefits for adults of 18 years and over.
12. David Scowcroft explained the process which NAS use:
  - a) Completion of application form/s.
  - b) The Co-ordinator then visits the individual and their family.
  - c) Discussion takes place as to whether the individual is suitable.

- d) The applicant/individual is then placed on the 'waiting' list to match up location, age, what is required by this person and availability of volunteer/s.

The Chairman has approached local charities who deal with administration of DBS checks.

Building a New Direction (BAND) is one such local charity for people with mental illnesses. They can and do deal with DBS checks. There will be no cost to the Co-ordinator or volunteers for the DBS check which is £12 per person administration fee, which will be paid by BAND (should we chose this charity to process on BAAS behalf).

13. The Chairman reported on his initial investigations into available grant aiding bodies and spoke briefly about Morrisons Foundations Trust, The Tudor Trust and The Big Lottery, Awards for All category. He also informed members that he had registered with The Greater Manchester Funding Portal. .

The Chairman's report generated a lively discussion amongst those present which continued after David Scowcroft had left the meeting: however, as there were insufficient members to vote upon this very important scheme, it was agreed that a further meeting take place in the very near future.

**Item 6. AOB** – deferred to next meeting.

**Item 7. Dates of future meetings**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm and 2.00pm for Saturday Drop-in on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016.