

## **BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT**

**Minutes of the meeting held 2-4pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at**

**Thicketford Community Care Centre, Thicketford House, Bolton BL2 2LW**

Chair, Graham, advised that he and Martin Farrar our current Treasurer had a recent meeting in which Martin had tendered his resignation from this office and as a Trustee on grounds of ill health. He agreed to stay in position until such time as his replacement can be found.

Should anyone wish to apply for this position, please contact Graham Heywood, BAAS Chair, for details. Tel: 07772 547158 or email: [g.heywood68@gmail.com](mailto:g.heywood68@gmail.com).

Tony Shaw reluctantly gave the Chair his letter of resignation as a committee member citing personal reasons. He and his wife, Steph, will remain BAAS members.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Charity and its members, thanked both Martin and Tony for the many years of dedicated service to the Charity and to the Chairman in particular. He wished them both health and much happiness in the future and expressed the hope we would see them at as many future events as possible.

The Chairman advised that Item 6 of the Agenda would be deferred to the March meeting (see below). This had been replaced at short notice by Rachel Taylor and would be moved to Item 2, so that all present could hear her presentation and be involved in the discussion.

The proposed Buddy service is now item 7, AOB item 8, Date and time item 9.

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

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to all.

Members present: Graham Heywood, Roselle Gorman, Barbara Brookes, Yvonne Poulson, Chris Eccles, Tony and Steph Shaw. Also present was Rachel Taylor from Bolton University.

Apologies were received from Eira Heywood and Martin Farrar.

### **2. Presentation**

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Rachel who is conducting research into the subject of Autism and Wellbeing/Happiness. This is a very important piece of research and could well have significant long term benefits for improving the understanding of Autism Spectrum Conditions for adults with an ASC.

Rachel, a PhD student, is at present undertaking research in biology. She explained that there are at present no studies on this subject. She required evidence so that she could argue her case with the CCCG.

She said 'tick' lists were not sufficient. Focus groups were required to focus upon and research 'joy'; what did 'joy' mean to each person?

The success of her research depends upon autistic people, parents, carers and those with whom they come into contact, so that results can be 'measured'.

She is hopeful that her research will help autistic people to take 'happiness' into their daily life.

Rachel uses the word 'Eudaimonic' to describe what all 'should be aiming for' and 'Hedonic' to describe a short term measure.

Those present joined in the discussion about this important and exciting piece of work.

Rachel advised that she had set up a Support Group in Bolton University who meet each 3 weeks.

Her intention is that the outcome will be to submit a 'paper' on her research to National and International professions.

At the conclusion, the Chairman suggested that BAAS could organise 2 Focus Groups to assist Rachel in her research. He thanked her for a most interesting and thought provoking discussion.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

### **4. Matters arising from the above Minutes**

The Chairman again advised those present to read the on-line Trustee Guide.

See Items 7 and 8 below re future application for Grant Aid.

The new and much needed leaflet is ongoing and will be further discussed by the Task & Finish Group in due course.

### **5. Chairman's report on the meetings attended**

Meeting of Carers Group representatives at the Hub:

The Chairman and Vice-Chair (Roselle) gave feedback on a recently held meeting for groups in receipt of carers' grants for trips.

i) Health, Care and Well-being Forum, hosted by CVS:

Chairman and Vice Chair, represented BAAS. A presentation regarding grant applications for funding from the CHEST for amounts exceeding over £5000, however this is rather complicated, whilst the application process for smaller amounts from CVS is much simpler.

Angela Crimmins Lead Caseworker/Employment Counsellor of Bolton Employability and a teacher at Firwood High School in Bolton, along with Judith Honiston gave a presentation explaining how they work with students with learning difficulties and employers who offer work experience to assist with supported employment. They gave examples resulting in successful work placements.

ii) Co-o production meeting:

Graham, Roselle and Alison Thompson represented BAAS. Mari Saeki also attended. The Greater Manchester 'Confirm and Challenge Coproduction Group' was organised by the North West Training & Development Team to discuss planning and development to transforming care for those with learning disabilities.

Several meetings would take place during 2016 and those involved could attend all the meetings or chose which of the topics would best suit their requirements. The result of which would then be to formulate a plan which would give feedback to the National Transforming Care Board.

iii) IAG meeting:

The Chairman represented BAAS. There was a presentation from Bolton Council, and concentrated on up-dating of the 'Hate Crime' policy.

GMP have a duty to promote this policy in each district, encourage the community to work with the police and ensure it is working in the correct fashion.

There was an urgent need to up-date and retrain the various centres e.g. UCAN.

At the next meeting there would be a 'Stop & Search' presentation.

Mari Saeki is conducting Autism Awareness Training for GMP.

iv) Autism training input:

BAAS was requested to provide Parents/Carers input to the Awareness Training Day delegates which comprise of professionals and parents/carers.

The Chairman and Vice-Chair have now given their 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation – feedback from all of which has been very encouraging. Graham & Roselle will again represent BAAS on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016.

## **6. Upcoming meetings**

Roselle advised the meeting that she had set up a list of meetings which the Chairman & she had been invited to represent BAAS during 2016. Including the monthly BAAS meetings; these amount to 29 and did not yet include the invitations to which the Chairman may be requested to represent BAAS. It will not be possible to attend all the meetings. If anyone wishes to represent BAAS, please contact the Chairman on 07772 547158 for details.

## **7. Report on the proposed Pilot Buddy service**

Graham was to attend a further meeting to take place with National Autistic Society (NAS) representative David Scowcroft and a colleague within the next 2 weeks. A full report will then be presented to the next meeting.

NAS will charge for the training Service Level Agreement drawn up by NAS and agreed by BAAS.

## **8. A.O.B.**

### **Application for Grant**

The Chairman advised those present that all accounts and reports relating to the last CVS grant had been submitted to Bolton Council.

A further grant application for core funding to Bolton CVS may be submitted in May or June at the earliest. Also, a grant to pay for the Pilot Buddy Scheme will be submitted to appropriate funding organisations once costs have been agreed upon. The NAS will make a significant charge for their input.

Roselle advised she had recently had a meeting with David Ramsbottom who manages the BAAS website, during which some amendments were made to improve the website, the list of Minutes of meetings brought up-to-date and linked to 'Archives' and Carers trips and photographs included.

Roselle had set up a list of Trustees and committee members details, per the Constitution, and distributed these to those present. She is working on a members/supporters list to incorporate the required information.

## **9. Date/s and time/s of next meeting/s**

Next meeting to be advised as our normal Wednesday falls during the Easter period.  
Later agreed as our normal last Wednesday of the month on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Drop In at Commerce House, Bridgeman Place, Bolton on 27<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm.