

## **BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT**

### **Minutes of the meeting of 30 March 2016 held at Thicketford Road Care Centre**

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

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and gave apologies from Mari Saeki, Alison Thompson and Helen Green.

#### **Item 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2016**

The minutes of the February meeting were agreed as a correct record

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

The Chairman referred to the February minutes and informed the meeting that feedback from NAS confirmed that review of the Families project led by Mari Saeki had now been concluded and was available on line. He reported that support for the project had been very positive and that the project would continue subject to some changes/ modifications. The value of the work undertaken by Mari's team over the years had been recognised by many respondents and the recommendation of the review team from Salford University was that the project be continued. The chairman also added that the review had provided for interested parties to complete an on-line questionnaire form and that BAAS had duly supported the project.

#### **Item 4. Future work programme – planned meetings of the task group**

The Chairman reported that as with all organisations, it was now appropriate that BAAS spend some time determining its priorities for the next 12-18 months. Given the success of the 2015 seminar and current work relating to the proposed 'Buddy' service, it was time for a discussion of where the charity wished to be in three to four years time. There were several tasks that need to be addressed, not least research on grants, new publicity materials and membership issues. In order for these matters to be addressed in a democratic way, the Chairman said he proposed reconvening the Task and Finish group.

He suggested that we continue to meet at the Toby in Astley Bridge and that we start by inviting previous members of that sub group to assist in planning for the future. Other members who had not been part of that group would be most welcome to assist. The Chairman said these meetings would need to be very focused and issues dealt with in order of importance/urgency. It was agreed the Chairman and Vice Chair would initially bring a list of dates for the meetings and items to be addressed to the May 2016 meeting.

#### **5. Chairman's report.**

##### **(i) Meetings attended**

The Chairman reported on meetings that he had attended on behalf of BAAS, either on his own or with the Vice Chair Roselle Gorman. These were:

1. Bolton Parents and Carers Consortium
2. Bolton Community Forum
3. Health and Wellbeing Forum
4. Autism training sessions organised by GMMHT

The Chairman pointed out that the last item involved both he and Roselle attending Autism Awareness training to give a parents perspective on raising sons with ASC's. These sessions were organised by Helen Bucke of the GMWMHT and the Chairman and Vice Chair had participated in 5 sessions over recent months. In recognition of the input from BAAS, we (BAAS) were to receive a sum of £500.00.

(ii) Buddy Scheme

The Chairman reported that following highly productive meetings with NAAS officers, the report on the Buddy scheme would be out to the April meeting.

**Item 7. Carers Trips**

The Chairman reported that funding for carers trips in 2016 would not be available for bidding until June. He invited members to offer suggestions for carers' trips as soon as possible.

**Item 8. Committee membership**

The Chairman reported outstanding vacancies on the committee, namely, Hon' Treasurer and three ordinary members ( non officer posts) of committee., He invited nominations for these positions and asked they be directed to himself.

**Item 9. Dates of future meetings**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm and our Saturday drop-in on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm.