

## **BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to all present and reported apologies from Helen Green, Yvonne Poulson and Mari Saeki.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September**

The Chairman thanked Roselle Gorman, Vice Chair for taking the meeting and producing the minutes of the September meeting; the Chairman being absent on holiday.

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

The meeting (5-AOB) with David Ramsbottom was now arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a correct record.

#### **4. Presentation by Dan McSherry and Alison Thompson – SLS North West**

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to Dan and Alison in their capacity not only as members of BAAS but as manager/owner of the company Supported Living Solutions (NW) Limited. As the name implies, the company provides person centred safe living solutions for people on the Autism Spectrum and those with associated conditions such as anxiety conditions. Dan spoke first about his background and how he became a support carer for Alison's son James. He also described his concerns about the many agencies that in his view fell short of promises they often made regarding their caring ethos. These experiences that mirrored those of Alison eventually brought them together in establishing SLS (NW) Ltd.

Dan continued to describe how the company operates and gave anonymised examples of case studies.

Alison then described her extensive personal experiences that eventually led her to believe that no agency was able to provide the one to one support that her son required. This view was informed by several failings of care agencies in whose care her son was entrusted. Alison described a number of traumatic episodes in her son's life that eventually resulted in her joining forces with Dan to establish SLS (NW) Ltd.

At the end of the joint presentation, Dan and Alison answered a number of members' questions, following which, the Chairman thanked Dan and Alison for a truly heart-rending, inspirational and heart-warming presentation.

#### **5. Website meeting**

The Chairman expanded on work recently undertaken by Luxson Ltd our website designers and the additional work required to be undertaken by David Ramsbottom of ASC Brightmet.

#### **6. Befriending Service.**

The Chairman reported on his continuing efforts in obtaining funding for the Befriending service. Some funding had been secured but he was pursuing match funding to enable the service to be established.

## **7. Carers Trips**

The Chairman gave an update on the programme of trips for carers. The next trip was to Beamish Museum and this would be followed by a trip to Bents Garden Centre near Culcheth and finally a trip to the Palace Theatre for a production of Billy Elliot.

Spaces for the trip to Bents Garden Centre were still available but the Palace Theatre production was full.

## **8. Any other business**

Alison Thompson informed the meeting that she had been selected to undertake a short period of research on behalf of the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Commissioners. The Commissioners want to know what support and services are working well, not working so well and what parents/carers need to keep included in their families and communities and live a full and meaningful life.

Alison expressed a desire to speak more fully on this matter at a future meeting with group members and the Chairman said he would liaise with Alison to facilitate this outcome.

## **9. Dates of next meetings**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November (AGM) 2.00pm – 4.30pm

Drop-in at

Commerce House on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2.00pm – 4.00pm