

## **BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2017**

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

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to members and indicated that apologies had been received from Janet Thompson, Alison Thompson and Helen Green. There were six members in attendance.

#### **Item 2. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup> 2017**

The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and accepted as a true record

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

The Chairman referred to item 6 of the above minutes (Autism Friendly Bolton exercise) and thanked members present at the June meeting for their contributions on that occasion expressing the view that this item had produced some very positive and valuable feedback. The information gathered would eventually be fed back to the Autism Partnership Board.

#### **Item 4. Carers trips**

The Chairman reported a successful first trip of 2017 when 12 people attended the Canal Boat trip from Lathom to Parbold on July 18<sup>th</sup>. On this occasion the weather had been very kind with a hot sunny day for all to enjoy.

The next scheduled trip was a visit to Trentham Gardens and Estate near Stoke on Trent which was likely to be fully booked by the day of departure on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

- i) **Autism Friendly Town.** The Chairman reported upon a meeting of the Sub-group of the Autism Partnership Board at which it was reported that Breaking Barriers would be conducting a family event in August at Crompton Place. Following discussion of the AFT concept it had been decided that the BB event in August and one to take place on July 26<sup>th</sup> presented an opportunity to conduct a survey of people in the Town Centre. The sub-group discussed the content of such a survey and a number of suggested questions were agreed. Following the meeting Mari Saeki had added to the survey questionnaire. It had been determined that the questionnaire could be used also by BAAS. Members agreed rather than conduct the survey in the town centre, it would be more useful in the short term to conduct an on-line survey of BAAS members and other groups such as Marie Curie Breast Cancer organisation.

This course of action was agreed and it was decided to put a time limit on receipt of responses so that the findings could be reported to the next Autism Partnership Board meeting in September 2017.

**ii) Health, Care and Well-being Forum 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

The Chairman reported briefly on the above meeting at which the focus had been on Carers and their needs. Presentations had been given on Bolton Council's revised Carer's strategy; a presentation from Bolton Carers Support and a wider, greater Manchester overview of Carers services and needs from Kirsty Littlewood from Oldham who is the Greater Manchester Lead for Carers Health and Wellbeing. The Chairman said the Council's Carers Strategy could be found on-line.

**iii) Bolton IAG Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

The Chairman reported an interesting meeting of the above IAG held at the University of Bolton. The most interesting report was from Inspector Gail Spruce who reported on her review of the Custody and Arrest procedures within Greater Manchester Police. The presentation was of particular importance/interest to BAAS members and their families because the review intended the procedures be more autism friendly. Inspector Gail Spruce is herself Autistic. It was agreed that the Chairman contact Inspector Spruce with a view to her attending a future BAAS meeting to address members on her current work.

**iv) Book-keeping course for voluntary sector groups July 19<sup>th</sup> 2017**

The Chairman reported he had attended the above course and confirmed it had been a useful refresher for all those in attendance. Our Hon. Treasurer had not been able to attend due to her starting a new job on that day.

**v) Social Value Conference held on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**

The Chairman reported on the above conference that he had attended on behalf of BAAS. Social value challenges all organisations to think how they may be able to add value to the communities in which they operate beyond the provision of their core services. Social value when applied can often benefit the wider community in terms of directly enhancing people's lives and the services they consume.

**Item 6. AOB**

There was a discussion of the Autism Show held At Media City and for which the Chairman had previously provided a number of free tickets. The Chairman, Vice Chairman Roselle Gorman, Secretary Barbara Brooks and two other members had visited the show and overall the experience had proved positive with just a couple of reservations about the environment within the building.

The Vice-Chair also reported on a pen that was distributed at the Autism Show that uniquely incorporated a small pull-out 'banner giving details of Autism' Members inspected the pen and agreed this was a very good item and which no one had seen before the this year's Autism Show. The Vic-Chair agreed to try and find the name of the manufacture of the pen.

The Vice Chair confirmed that she was liaising with David Ramsbottom of asc Bolton with a view to his putting the DVD entitled 'What is Autism' on the BAAS website. She had already supplied two members with copies of the DVD.

**Item 7. Dates of next meetings**

The next monthly meeting will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August commencing at 2.0pm. Next drop-in this Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July at Commerce House 2.0pm -4.0pm