

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 25th October 2017 at Thicketford Care & Community Centre

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to members present. Apologies for absence were received from Anna Polichnowska (treasurer), Yvonne Ashworth, Janet Thompson and Alison Thompson.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on September 27th 2017

The minutes were reviewed and will be ratified at our AGM meeting in November 2017.

3. Matters arising from the September Minutes:

Presentation by Inspector Gail Spruce – Greater Manchester Police on 27th September 2017

Everyone present agreed that Inspector Gail Spruce's presentation was both informative and enjoyable. As a result of her visit the son of one of our members' (who gave an excellent account of his own experiences involving the police) resulted in being offered assistance to both himself and his family. We felt this was indeed a positive result and wished to share this information with the members present.

4. Presentation by Dr Pedro Vital – Bolton University on the 30th August 2017

Dr Vital has agreed to a re-visit in 2018. The Chairman confirmed we are now partners of the research work into autism being carried out by Manchester University (information on this to be distributed in due course). The Chairman confirmed that future funding is being pursued for further autism research.

5. Bolton Carers Networking Event held at The Hub on the 4th October 2017.

The Vice-Chair circulated her printed report on the networking event. At the above meeting, Vice Chair Roselle Gorman and Secretary Barbara Brooks had taken the opportunity to give an update on a number of pertinent issues on autism support, signposting and impact on families, in particular carers not having sufficient time for respite. Also discussions on funding and how to raise funds and the invaluable work carried out by unpaid volunteers. Vice Chair, Roselle, gave an account of the invaluable work carried out on behalf of BAAS with local Community Organisations and providers.

It was also reported that in future, applications for grant would need to be submitted online. Clearly, this caused some concern amongst these groups who had little or no experience of online applications but the CVS had offered to provide assistance including use of their computers.

6. Chairman's report

- (i) Bolton CVS AGM – 30th October 2017** - held at The Hub, Bolton
The Chairman and Vice Chair will attend on behalf of BAAS.
- (ii) Befriending Service** – The Chairman reported there was still no response from the grant application for a Befriending Co-ordinator post.
- (iii) Carers Trips** – Chairman confirmed there would be no further trips this year and monies received would be reconciled before the end of December 2017. Chairman raised concern over the increasing cost of transport and the need to either reduce trips in 2018 or organise local trips to reduce costs (a number of venues were discussed).
- (iv) Minutes for ratification.**
Due to there not being a Quorum at this meeting, the Chairman confirmed that minutes taken of this meeting would be ratified at our AGM meeting on the 29th November 2017.

- (v) **Drop-in Venue at Commerce House** – The Chairman reported that with effect from 21 August the room used for our monthly meetings would no longer be available. The Chairman was to make further enquiries. However, members did think that this might be an appropriate time to look for alternative accommodation; perhaps in a pub or coffee house.
- (vi) **BIAG** - A complete revision of members' packs has taken place and the new packs are to be sent out to interested parties and the chairman had had discussions with Steve Sherry Chairman of Bolton LGBT Group. BIAG are hoping that by the next meeting to have three new members in place following proposed interviews.
- (vii) **Fund Raising** on behalf of BAAS– The Chairman was happy to report that a friend of BAAS, has introduced us to 'Motorcise' (a local ladies keep fit and gym facility) in Bolton who have agreed to fund raise for our charity.

The Chairman reported that Comic Relief have advised that grants are available for core costs (deadline October).

7. AOB

The Chairman advised that Carers Support provide care and learning days – information can be obtained either direct or through their magazine.

8. Next Meeting - to be held on the 29th November 2017.

This will also incorporate the AGM followed by a festive buffet. **ALL WELCOME**