

Vice Chair's Report of the Bolton Together AGM held 8th November 2017

Jennie Smith, Bolton Together Independent Trustee, opened the meeting by welcoming so many present.

Jennie explained that whilst she is an independent Trustee, she is a lawyer previously employed by the Court of Protection Service. She advised that:

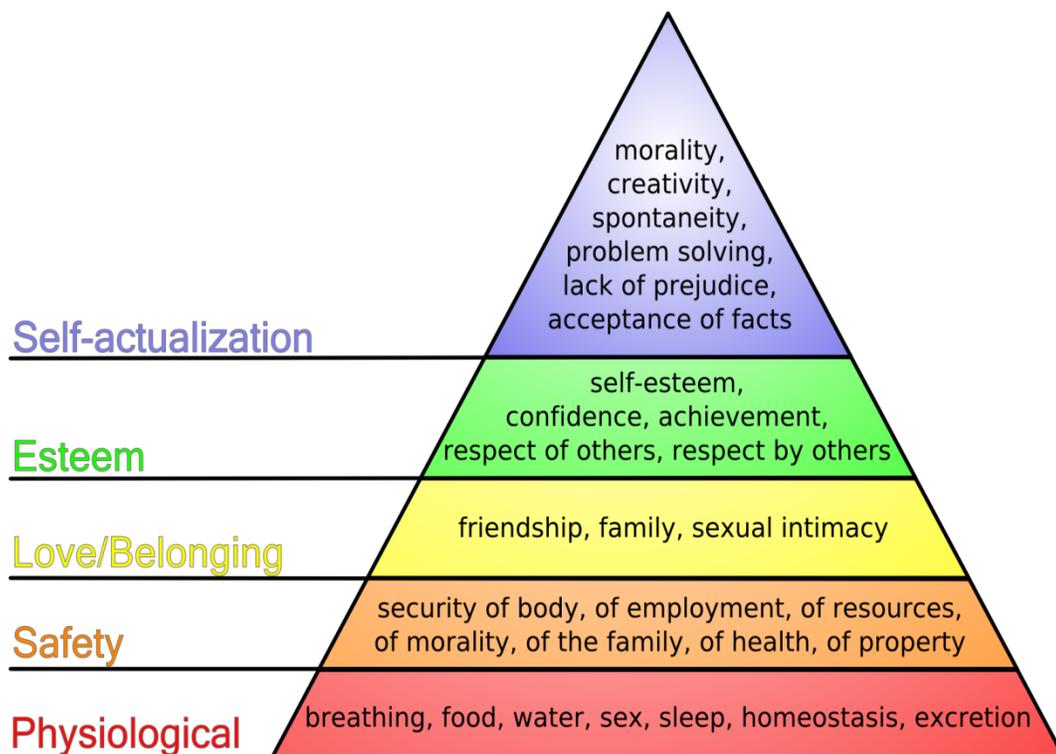
- she had attended a meeting on 6th November last concerning Commissioning in Bolton aimed at adults and looked forward to the report.
- Bolton Together Early Years Sub Group was to meet on 10th January 2018 at Castle Hill at 10am.
- A further 12k were available to distribute in grants.
- CSE bid is taking shape for boys and young men.

Nicola Roby from CHW small business accounting, briefly explained Bolton Together's financial Annual Report. There were no questions.

Kathy Evans, CEO of Children England, was then introduced and gave a most interesting and informative report 'A National Perspective for Children and Young People'. She spoke of a need for much more collaboration between organisations and public services to work for the benefit of all.

She spent some time explaining the 5-stage model of Abraham Maslow's Theory (below). She felt strongly that this is very relevant today:

A Theory of Human Motivation



There followed several questions on various aspects, particularly relating to resources and funding. She remarked on the perception that the larger organisations always received the largest share of funding, but this was not necessarily the case, however all grant funding has declined (as we all know). She advised that, particularly in these times of cuts, members should be looking at how we can work with and improve the brilliant resources we already possess, rather than labouring on lack of funding and we could best do this by all organisations collaborating and working with each other and public services.

Kathy encouraged members to look at www.dsc.org.uk/grantsforgood - particularly the campaign to promote government grants for charities and voluntary groups. Grant funding from government is essential for communities to thrive, putting people at the heart of everything. She was keen that '*we can make it happen*'. We members can influence commissioners and politicians if we all work together. You can find out how to get involved on the website.

Dave Baguley, CEO of Urban Outreach said he was to give his report – A Local Picture for Children, Young People and families, however having heard Kathy Evans speak, he talked of his agreement with everything in her report and his own experiences. He finished by encouraging everyone to 'get involved' and quoted:

A dream is a future in need of an architect to make it a reality.

Darren Knight, CEO of Community Voluntary Services (CVS), spoke of how he was encouraged by all the CVS and members had achieved over the last 12 months and thanked them for their unstinting work.

During brief intervals in proceedings, Caroline Wyke, Bolton Together Business Support Manager, had moved around the tables introducing herself and chatting briefly with some members. After speaking, Darren asked Caroline to introduce herself to the room and she gave a brief account of her career leading to recently joining the CVS.

Jennie Smith thanked the speakers and everyone for their contribution at the meeting which was followed by a pastie & peas lunch and time for networking.

Vice Chair, Roselle handed out several BAAS leaflets and had a most interesting discussion with Michelle and Deborah, both very enthusiastic ladies from Healthwatch Bolton. Michelle also volunteers at H.A.N.D.F.U.L., a family support group in Farnworth (handful@yahoo.co.uk). Michelle agreed to come along to speak to our members at one of our early meetings in 2018 and one of Healthwatch advisers, Leah Elcock, may also be able to speak at the meeting. TBA.

Roselle also chatted with 3 ladies, Carole Brennan, Victoria Speak and Claire Hill, from the charity Daytrippers, a parent and carer led group offering days out, activities and support for children with disabilities and their families and carers. Carole has been volunteering at Daytrippers for 14 years and is a founder member. On the last trip she arranged, nearly 100 members took part – achievement indeed. Our chairman may wish to make contact with Carole Brennan to enquire about their transport arrangements and costs, as this may benefit our own carers trips costs. She may also have ideas about trips suitable for our adult carers.

See www.daytrippersbolton.org.uk e-mail: daytrippers.bolton@hotmail.co.uk.

This Bolton website www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk gives advice and information for the support and care of adults and their families which may be useful to our members.