

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of meeting held at 2pm on 28th March 2018
at Thicketford Care and Community Centre

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed members. Apologies were received from Gerry Melling and Elaine Birch. There were 8 members in attendance and one guest speaker.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on February 28th 2018.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th February were reviewed and agreed.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising from the above minutes that were not for discussion at this meeting.

4. Presentation: Lisa Griffiths-Woods, Operations Manager of Bolton Cares.

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, Lisa Griffiths – Wood, Operations Manager and Autism Lead for Bolton Cares. Lisa informed the meeting of her role within Bolton Cares and gave details of her past work in the field of caring. In particular, she explained her role in regard to being the Autism lead for Bolton Cares. This role was both ambitious and imaginative and covers, amongst other plans, maintaining a company autism register; link and work with community autism groups; support staff and managers with problems and concerns as an internal consultant; develop the link with Greater Manchester Autism Consortium; promote Bolton Cares as a specialist provider, arrange specialist training for specific staff groups and lead/remodel/develop new services co-productively.

Primarily social care for adults in the Community, at present traditional services do not meet current needs which requires a specialism.

Lisa explained that Bolton Cares is currently working with Judith North – Trainer and Developer who specialises in autism and autism spectrum disorders.

Bolton Cares hope to set up and maintain a register and forum group to provide individual support plans, share best practice, across the borough of Bolton to adults on the autism spectrum.

This will also include transition planning, specialist training and forge links with local groups and form part of the existing community network within Bolton.

As part of the presentation Lisa informed members of her Bolton Champions team and their specialist role within the team to members present.

There was also a discussion relating to the refurbishment of the Jubilee Centre and the opportunities to shape its future use as a centre where a range of social activities might be on offer for members' sons and daughters to help relieve loneliness and isolation, particularly for those who were high functioning; a facility that is often sought by members of BAAS and their wider families (also see item 9 below).

Lisa requested members give further ideas on the future of the centre and offered to attend the next meeting of BAAS to further update members.

The Chairman thanked Lisa on behalf of members for her presentation and expressed the hope that in the future BAAS would be able to work collaboratively with Bolton Cares to the betterment of all Bolton families impacted by autism.

5. Chairman's Report of meetings attended since the February meeting

The Chairman gave a summary of the meetings he had attended since the last meeting which included a meeting of Bolton IAG at which modern day slavery within Bolton and presentations on the National Anti terrorism campaign called PREVENT were given.

The Chairman also advised members present of a meeting with Simon Kitchin to explore the opportunity of BAAS hosting 'mindfulness' courses to be delivered by the Public Health services and which addresses the subject of dealing with stress and anxiety. There were both short and long duration (weekly) courses available and it was agreed the Chairman circulate further details before the next meeting.

Finally, the Chairman referred to a 'training' session hosted by Bolton Cares at which their autism champions were introduced. The session also included contributions from three people with autism and who had travelled from as far away as Dorset to speak of their experiences of living with autism.

6. Carers trips 2018

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had submitted an application for grant to enable BAAS to offer its members respite trips during 2018/2019. The Chairman proposed several venues to be considered which included:

- Lake District.
- Blackpool Illuminations and early evening meal en-route to Blackpool at St Annes or at Curley's Dining Rooms in Horwich.
- Theatre Trip (evening, possibly week-end).
- Liverpool Albert Docks and museum to view Chinese Terracotta warriors.

No dates have yet been agreed.

If any of our members have any other useful suggestions we would like to hear from you before a final decision is made.

7. Befriending Service

The Chairman advised that the additional grant (submitted to Bolton CVS) had now been secured to enable BAAS to recruit a Befriending Co-Coordinator whose main task initially will be to help select volunteers who will undertake appropriate training.

8. General Data Protection Regulation

The Chairman informed members of the soon to be introduced above new legislation that will come into force on 25th May 2018 and which will have important implications for organisations, including charities regarding future gathering, storage and use of personal data. It was expected that Bolton CVS will be holding workshops on this topic in the near future. The Chairman and/or Vice Chair intend to attend any training on behalf of BAAS. It was suggested that E. Heywood – Safeguarding Officer might also attend.

9. Any Other Business:

A short term alternative facility for drop-in sessions for members' sons and daughters was further discussed and various options such as the Triangle at Doffcocker, Oscars Disco Bar and Christ Church Hall at Longsight Lane, Harwood, but due to time constraints further discussion was required at our next meeting.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 25th April 2018 at 2pm.