

## **BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at Thicketford Care & Community Centre**

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Elaine Birch and Alison Thompson. In attendance were the Chairman, Graham Heywood, Vice-Chair, Roselle Gorman, Safeguarding Officer, Eira Heywood, Yvonne Poulson, Barbara Brooks, Gerrie Melling and Carolyn Bailey.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

The minutes of the above meeting were reviewed and the meeting deferred those matters that were to be addressed as items on this meeting's agenda. Otherwise, the minutes were agreed.

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

There were no matters arising, save for those items to be discussed further at this meeting.

#### **4. Ratification of the April minutes**

Once again, there were insufficient members present who were at the April meeting and therefore this item was once more deferred.

#### **5. Proposed programme of social and life-skills training**

The Chairman reminded members that during discussion of this item in July, he agreed to investigate activities organised by the ASGMA Aspirations programme. He reported that he had been informed by ASGMA staff that there were no activities currently organised in the Bolton area but that ASGMA had organised a meeting in Bolton the previous day and to which people had been invited to attend to discuss the setting up of such a programme comprised of activities of their choice. No further information was forthcoming at the present.

The Chairman also informed the meeting that Barbara Brooks (Secretary) had informed him of the existence of a 'Men in Sheds' project based near Lavender Road in Great Lever and the location of which they had visited. The project, organised jointly by Age UK Bolton and Bolton at Home was thought to be suitable for high functioning people.

The Chairman had spoken to a member of Age UK and been informed that they (Age UK) had withdrawn from the project following a lack of funding but that a new funding bid had been submitted for a new project nearer the town centre. Age UK would be amenable to further discussions with BAAS if their funding bid succeeds to explore making any new project autism friendly.

Discussion then turned to the previous offer from Bolton Cares that required BAAS to agree to Bolton Cares providing two members of staff for any project within their Disability Learning Centre. The Chairman was requested to have further discussions with Lisa Griffiths Wood

with a view to only one member of staff being required, at least until any project was attracting a good number of service users.

**Action point 1.** The Chairman agreed to this course of action and to report back to the meeting in September.

## **6. Update on the Befriending Service**

The Chairman informed members that interviews were to be held at the Bolton CVS Hub for the post of Befriending Co-ordinator on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

He confirmed that there were two recent applications from people wanting to act as volunteers and these two people would be interviewed by the successful candidate for the Co-ordinator's post. Advertisements for volunteers had been posted in a number places and these would continue until such time as there was full capacity.

## **7. Update on Carers trips**

The programme of trips was reviewed and everyone who had been on one or more of the trips confirmed they had enjoyed the days and each one had been successful. The Chairman spoke about the proposed trip to Salford Quays and Ordsall Hall. This would be a trip via public transport on a date yet to be fixed, but preferably on a weekday. The Vice-Chair reminded the Chairman that there were likely to be disruptions to train times throughout the next couple of months and so these had to be avoided as far as possible.

**Action point 2.** The Chairman to circulate details of this trip at a later date.

The last trip was likely to be a theatre visit during December. More discussion of this would ensue nearer the time.

## **8. Meetings attended by the Chairman and Vice Chair since the last meeting**

The Chairman referred to an event he had attended related to the Autism Strategy for Bolton held at the Hub on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018. This was an event at which those people with lived experience had been invited to share their experiences with others in attendance and speak about what they themselves wished to be included in the Strategy. Those members who had attended this event felt it had been worthwhile and were looking forward to a further event scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018, to be held at Commerce House on Bridgeman Place in Bolton. The Chairman referred to a second meeting he had attended along with several other members at Thicketford House Care Centre. This was a Wellbeing presentation by Simon Kitchin from the Health Department of Bolton Council. All those who had attended felt it was a good meeting and that it would have lasting personal benefits.

The Vice Chair reported on the CVS seminar, Recognising and Developing Volunteers which she had attended during the past month.

The Vice Chair reported also briefly reported on items which the Chairman had posted to members along with this meeting's agenda and to which she referred members for further details.

## **9. Any other business**

There were no further items to report.

## **10. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 2:00pm at Thicketford Care and Community Centre.