

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st October 2018 at Thicketford Care & Community Centre

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

There were seven members in attendance, Graham Heywood, Chairman, Roselle Gorman, Vice Chair, Eira Heywood, Safeguarding Officer, Barbara Brooks, Secretary, Rachel Nelmes, Befriending Co-Ordinator, Elaine Birch and John Ellis.

There was also a new member to our Group, Charlotte Horrocks.

Apologies were received from Yvonne Poulson and Alison Thompson.

Prior to the meeting there was a brief Introduction from members to Charlotte.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26th September 2018

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising, save for those under AOB of the meeting.

The 26th September 2018 minutes were agreed.

Ratification of the minutes of the meeting held 25th April 2018

It was agreed the Chairman circulate those members known to be at the 25th April 2018 meeting requesting them to verify the minutes.

4. Correspondence to and from Sir David Crausby

The Chairman reported he had provided an update to Sir David on ongoing concerns from members applying for PIP benefits. The Chairman had also invited Sir David to our AGM but due to Parliamentary Business he is unable to attend but would like to be kept up to date via e-mail, which The Chairman has agreed to do.

5. Carers Trips update

The Chairman discussed a theatre trip to the Palace Theatre on Saturday 22nd December 2018 to see the acclaimed musical 'Wicked'. Tickets had been provisionally booked at a cost to members of £25 which includes transport. This event has been subsidised by monies received from Autism Awareness training undertaken by the Chairman, Vice Chair and Safeguarding Officer, throughout the year at both CMH Diagnostic Team and Castle Hill Training Centre, Bolton. The Chairman emphasised the need for all those wishing to attend this event to let him have their monies by no later than 20th November as he had to confirm with the Palace Theatre precise numbers requiring tickets. Failure to adhere to this requirement could lead to cancellation of the event.

Also discussed was a trip to the Imperial War Museum North at Salford Quays, which this year commemorates the ending of the First World War in 1918. Members present agreed to meet at Bolton Train Station on Thursday 8th November at 10.30am and make their own way to and from the venue.

6. Forthcoming Autism Conference and Marketplace Seminar events

BAAS had been invited to staff a stand at the forthcoming Healthwatch charity event to be held on Tuesday 13th November 2018 10-12pm.

Chairman, Vice- Chair and newly appointed Befriending Co-Coordinator Rachel Nelmes agreed to attend and all other members are also welcome. The event will focus on mental health and wellbeing.

Vice Chair, Roselle, gave the Chairman, Graham, copies of suggested posters for the forthcoming seminar and Marketplace event. The poster photos were agreed. Arrangements were then discussed for setting up our BAAS table with balloons, posters, the new Befriending leaflet etc.

Graham had asked Roselle if she could provide free photos to be used in the befriending leaflet as both he and Rachel felt the ones in the draft version were not suitable. Roselle provided both Graham and Rachel with copies of suggestions which they agreed upon and Graham would ensure these would be incorporated into the new leaflet.

Autism Conference

On the 29th November 2018 Bolton Diagnostic and Post Diagnostic Team are holding a one-day seminar at 'The Curve', Prestwich. Chairman, Vice Chair and Safeguarding Officer will attend this event. The new Befriending leaflet, photo posters and balloons etc will also be used at this event.

7. Further discussion on proposals for a programme of activities at the adjacent LD Centre at Thicketford

Lisa from Bolton Cares briefly joined the group to discuss ongoing recruitment of members as volunteers, also what would be expected of volunteers, including adherence to the code of conduct.

At our last meeting Lisa asked members for ideas on activities, which would expect to be diverse by nature. Chair has been in touch with ASGMA and on reflection has decided that services currently proposed with Bolton Cares would best suit our support needs at this time.

Lisa also confirmed documentation required by volunteers i.e. DBS would need to be in place and asked those members who have agreed to become volunteers to provide all necessary documentation at our next meeting on Wednesday 28th November 2018. As this will be our AGM members have agreed to meet at 1.30pm to enable Bolton Cares to process documentation prior to the start of the meeting.

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

The Chairman and Vice Chair also attended the Bolton CVS AGM on the 30th October 2018. A number of contributions including one from Tony Oakman, Bolton's recently appointed Chief Executive, shared information on the proposed financial cuts taking effect from 1st April 2019 and the impact on charities that this could have in the Bolton area.

The Chairman also reported on his attendance at the Autism Partnership Board and our contribution to the ongoing Self Assessment Framework and Bolton's contribution to the Autism Strategy in partnership with GMAC.

9. AGM – reminder that following the AGM there would be a bring and share festive buffet. All members agreed to bring along a contribution to this event.

10. AOB

Vice Chair, Roselle, advised members of schemes set up in Scotland which were very successful and similar schemes could be set up in Bolton and the Greater Manchester areas.

She handed out copies from their websites i.e. Border Links & Interest Links Scottish Borders which members took away with them to bring their thoughts to future meetings.

11. Date of Next Meeting.

AGM on Wednesday 28th November 2018 at 2pm.

N.B. 1.30pm for those volunteers who have agreed to have a DBS check. Please bring along your documentation.