

BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT

Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th January 2015.

1. In Attendance – six members and one guest

Apologies for absence from Kath Martin and Martin and Julie Farrar and Helen Green

2. Minutes of the November 2014 meeting.

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the November (AGM) meeting and reminded members that those minutes could be viewed on the group's website.

3. Matters arising from the November meeting

The Chairman drew attention to the item regarding committee vacancies and reminded members that vacancies still existed for committee members and also for the post of Vice- Chairman. Any one interested in any of these positions were requested to speak to or otherwise contact the Chairman for more details.

4. Guest Speaker

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to Mari Saeki from the National Autistic Society.

Mari gave a comprehensive address on progress in the Greater Manchester area and the launch of 'Growing older with Autism'. There were discussions around how we as a fledgling group could create greater awareness within the Bolton and surrounding areas, for which Mari has agreed to offer support by way of a mail shot via NA and all existing partner agencies. **Action: Chairman**

The Chairman raised the possibility of a jointly organised seminar and asked Mari if she would be prepared to advise on suitable speakers for such an event.

Mari proposed we contact a Peter Baimbridge, with whom she has engaged in the past, who is a very experienced speaker on the subject, and delivers lectures in and around the Greater Manchester area on his own journey to diagnosis.

Mari also recommended contacting Ross Blackburn, whom she has knowledge of from previous seminars.

It was agreed that at the seminar the Group would like to encourage local input from for example, the local authority and with Dr. Anna Dodd of the Trafford extended service. Again arrangements to be confirmed, once a date has been set for the seminar. **Action:** Chairman

Mari encouraged the group to submit ideas for the capital venture for adult autism bid, particularly as this is time limited, several ideas were discussed, including:

- Autism friendly space – creating a place of safety
- Technological aides etc.,
- Web site/access to information
- Production of a video, with other partners in the Bolton area.
- Leaflet drops in A&E Services
- Environmental friendly cinemas and theatres such as our own Octagon theatre.

Ideas to be forwarded to Mari via the Chairman.

Discussion ensued on present services, especially the diagnostic services. There was general agreement that this could be better and as a group we should be speaking to the Commissioning team on how to make it better and more fit for purpose.

Regarding BAAS, the group felt that the way forward was to extend the existing services to include an evening event, which would be informal and create a 'cafe atmosphere' in which those who attend can discuss their own personal issues with others. **Action:** Chairman

The Chairman to contact AGSMA and NAS for ideas or models that have been successful and how NAS operates their outreach scheme, which is presently in operation.

Mari felt that the group should be actively involved in the Parent/Carer Consortium and advised the group of the next meeting, which will be Friday 6th February, venue details provided. Mari felt that as we had a 'common interest', particularly around well-being, prevention and preventative services, it would be of great interest to us.

The Chairman had already agreed to attend the launch of the new Care Act, to be presented by Bolton Commissioning Team, and agreed that he would try and attend the Parent Carer Consortium meeting, if this did not 'clash' with his meeting in the afternoon.

The Chairman informed the group that as a result of concern having been expressed on a number of occasions regarding the issue/re-issue of concessionary bus passes he had been in touch with both the Greater Manchester Transport Authority and with the local authority regarding this subject. He confirmed he had been told neither organisation was aware of any government plans to end or amend this scheme and went on to outline the process for obtaining a concessionary pass as dictated by both organisations.

Mari asked the group if it would be prepared to collate evidence on problems encountered from members and particularly around the new legislation and implementation of PIP and specifically those benefit claims which resulted in loss of income or awaiting decision from the DWP. **Action:** all members.

Chairman asked all the members present to send him any feedback on both these topics which will be discussed at a future meeting.

5. Next Meeting of BAAS to be held on Wednesday 25th February at 2pm at Thicketford Care and Community Centre.