

BOLTON ADULT ASPERGERS SUPPORT

Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th March 2015 at Thicketford Care Centre.

1. Present - 12 members and 1 guest

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Julie Farrar. The Chairman asked Martin to convey the group's best wishes to Julie, particularly for a continuing improvement in her general health.

3. Minutes of last meeting held on the Wednesday 25th March

The minutes were accepted as a true record save for one correction regarding item 8. The provision of a Disco on Thursdays commencing at 7.30pm to 11.00pm for vulnerable adults with disabilities is not at the Millstone, Astley Bridge as reported but at the Millstone Crown Street Bolton.

There were no other matters arising and the minutes as corrected were accepted.

The Chairman reported on a number of items as follows:

- 3.1 Membership of the IAG:** The Chairman informed members that further to his interview by the Police from the Community and Licensing Partnership for membership of the IAG, (which was established in light of the Stephen Lawrence enquiry). his interview had been successful and he was now a member (on behalf of BAAS) of the Independent Advisory Group. This was a completely voluntary role, the object of which is to assist the Police in their engagement with vulnerable and minority communities. Members of the group are required to commit to being able to attend critical incidents at any time of day or night and also to attend at least six meetings per year at which the aims and objects of the group and ongoing policy developments are discussed. In answer to a question from one of the members, the Chairman confirmed that only one representative per organisation is permitted on the group.
- 3.2 Proposed seminar:** The Chairman reported the seminar was now to be held on 14th July and two speakers had so far been booked, namely Ros' Blackburn and Professor Rita Jordan (lately, Professor of Autism Studies at Birmingham University). The location of the Seminar is provisionally to be held at 'The Bridge'. More details will be provided later.
- 3.3 Bolton Parent and Carers Consortium:** The Chairman reported both he and Eira Heywood will be attending the next meeting of the group on April 14th. Both members will also be attending the BPCC drop-in on Thursday 12th April and 'manning' a stall complete with the group's banners and an assortment of leaflets. A cordial invitation was extended to all members to 'drop-in' between 11.00am and 1.00pm. The Chairman also confirmed that BAAS had been invited to be in membership of a post 16yrs sub group.
- 3.4 Bolton Autism Steering Group Partnership:** This meeting's work is confined at present to completing a revision of the Autism Traffic Light Strategy document. The next meeting will be on 28th April. The Chairman, together with Steph' Serrate, Mari Saeki and a member of ABAG comprise a sub-group and will report to the main group as progress is made.

3.5 Asda Community Charity Promotion – The Chairman informed the group that Asda at Astley Bridge were currently highlighting BAAS as part of its community programme and that we were receiving support from St Pauls Church Community and other shoppers at the Astley Bridge Store. The group was one of three organisations receiving support and at the time of this meeting BAASS was in second place in the number of tokens cast. The promotion will run for six to eight weeks.

4. Presentation by Helen Buke – Trafford Extended Service– Autism Support Team.

Helen briefly outlined the history of the role of the CMHT within the Bolton Community and in greater depth the diagnostic pathway:

- Referral through GP (now targeted with additional information)
- GP sends referral to TESS (Trafford Extended Services & Support)
- Using the ADI (Autism Development Index) identifying non verbal to fluently verbal, involving parents and known knowledge, to
- Final Decision – this being a group discussion of various health professionals including speech therapists, to
- Receiving a diagnosis and signposting to appropriate services, and
- Offer of ongoing support with adjustment for a further ten week period, with the option of an additional eight week course on anxiety and coping strategies.
- The completion of the 'Outcome Star' a person centred tool which is sent to the GP
- With the offer of optional evening group therapy
- Additionally the team work closely with the DWP (Department for Work & Pensions) offering assessments in a number of work placements via the Disability Employment Advisers, also
- SPOAT – Single Point of Access Teams (Accident & Emergency Services).

Helen advised the group that in conjunction with United Response a number of initiatives, were in place, including clients themselves delivering training and working as 'Ambassadors' within their own community, encouraging service user led advocacy.

After Helen's presentation she kindly answered a number of questions from members, at the close of which, The Chairman on behalf of the group, thanked Helen for her presentation.

5. Dates of next meetings

The next Wednesday meeting of the group will be on April 29th at 2.00pm.

The next drop-in at Commerce House will be on Saturday 25th April.