

BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2015 at Thicketford Care Centre.

Item 1. Attendance: There were 11 members in attendance

Item 2. Welcome and apologies: The Chairman extended a warm welcome to members. Apologies were received from Helen Green and Pat Higson.

Item 3. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th April

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as a correct record.

Item 4. Matters arising: The Chairman informed members that regarding item 5, Autism Strategy Partnership meeting, the scheduled meeting had been cancelled by the local authority and the meeting re-scheduled for a more recent date had also been cancelled. The next meeting of the partnership is expected to take place in June. There were no other items arising.

Item 5. Update from the NAS: The Chairman informed the group that he had asked Mari Saeki for an update on recent developments. This she had provided but was unable to deliver at the meeting because of family commitments. The Chairman made brief reference to her report and promised that Mari's full text would be distributed with the minutes of this meeting in due course.

Item 6. Update on the work of the Task and Finish Sub Group:

The Chairman gave feedback to the whole group on the work of the sub group that had met at 1.00pm prior to the main meeting starting at 2.00pm.

The work of the group had been around the organisation of the Seminar to take place on 14th July 2015. He reported that so far the group had:

1. Succeeded in attracting 27 organisations for a marketplace of stalls
2. Secured speakers for four workshops
3. Secured four main speakers, two of which were internationally known
4. Identified a source of additional stalls for the marketplace to accommodate all organisations now signed up to the marketplace.
5. Confirmed the production of a flyer that had been widely circulated, both electronically and by hand, the latter to a number of shops and public buildings in the town centre.
6. Invited Bolton's three MP's

7. Invited Bolton's Mayor.
8. In discussions with Breaking Barriers/ABAG it had been agreed that an Autism 'Welcome' pack be launched at the Seminar.

It was agreed that we now need to prepare a new poster for circulation giving more details of the workshops and speakers and the times of events where possible. It had also been agreed that the task sub group will need to visit the Bridge Church probably some three weeks before the seminar in order to review the arrangements and to confirm all requirements are in hand. The next meeting of the sub group will be held on 3rd June at the Toby Carvery at 6.45 pm.

Item 7. Carers Breaks Funding Application

The Chairman reported he had submitted an application to the Bolton CVS in regards to the above. It was likely that some grant would be made available subject to the group satisfying certain conditions such as contributions of members towards the proposals and existence of current insurance etc.

Item 8. Application for core funding

The Chairman indicated that the deadline for applications to this fund had passed recently but will be open again in August at which time an application will be submitted.

Item 9. Charity Commission Application

The Chairman reported on progress of the group's application for charity status and informed members that he had recently supplied additional information to the CC. A final response/decision on the application was now awaited.

Item 10. Any other business

Kath Dagnall enquired as to the procedure for obtaining a diagnosis of Autism.

The Chairman indicated that the process for obtaining a diagnosis is set out within the BAAS website. Helen Bucke Occupational Therapist of the Autism Spectrum Support Team can also be contacted for further advice. Her telephone number is: **01204 544640**

Next meetings: Wednesday June 24th Drop- in Saturday 27th June 2.00