

# **Bolton Adult Asperger Support**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 at Thicketford Road Care Centre**

### **Item No.**

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

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to Dan Mc Sherry, Manager of Supported Living Solutions (NW) Ltd and to our guest speaker Mari Saeki from the National Autistic Society.

Apologies were received from Martin Farrar (Treasurer who continues to experience poor health) and Helen Green. Seven people were in attendance including our guest speaker.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting held on July 27<sup>th</sup> 2016**

The minutes of the above meeting were reviewed and agreed.

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

Regarding the item reported by Yvonne Poulson , and subsequently commented on by the Chairman, the meeting attended by Yvonne's Son Tom was confirmed as being the ASC meeting which is a drop-in facility and similar to the ABAG drop-in.

Following completion of the review of the above minutes, they were accepted as a correct record.

#### **4. Address by Mari Saeki**

Mari gave as usual, a comprehensive overview of matters relating to her area of work, the most important of which referred to the review of the Families Project undertaken by Salford University earlier this year and to which BAAS had contributed together with a number of beneficiary organisations throughout Greater Manchester. The period of the review had clearly been a difficult one for staff employed by the project. Funding by Consortium members had not been an easy exercise and there had been issues of perceived lack of strategic focus and value for money from amongst GM Local Authorities.

However, the findings of the review by Salford University had confirmed the very real value of the work undertaken by the Families Project Team and the conclusions of the review broadly supported the project and its continuance, subject to a new service specification, revised outcomes criteria and a more strategic focus, recognising that funding in the past had been difficult but which, from here on in, should be easier for partner authorities to determine value for money. A new management structure was in place and a new host (office etc.) for the Families Project Team had been provided in Stockport.

It had been a Turbulent 2 years for the Project Team but all the support the team had received Mari said was most encouraging.

Mari also referred to developments and changes to health services in Greater Manchester (Devo Manc) and the effect of and opportunities for Autism services. The local Autism Partnership Board was reported upon and the work involving the completion of the next Self Assessment Framework by which Autism services are rated Red, Amber or Green (RAG) respectively and reported upon to the Government.

The Chairman thanked Mari for a very comprehensive and wide ranging review of developments affecting Autism services throughout GM.

## 5. Chairman's report

- (i) **Befriending Service update.** The Chairman reported two applications for funding had been submitted, one to the Tudor Trust and one to the Big Lottery. The Big Lottery had subsequently offered a grant but this left a requirement for match funding. This was being pursued.
- (ii) **New Leaflet.** The Chairman handed out copies of the new leaflet and indicated that due to the impending change of the Charity's name from Bolton Adult Asperger Support to Bolton Adult Autism Support the second printing of the leaflets would need to reflect the name change. He also indicated that changes would be needed to the website and banners. The costs of which were still being investigated.
- (iii) **Meetings attended by the Chairman.** The Chairman reported he and the Vice Chair had attended a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Forum hosted by Bolton CVS. The main item had been a number of presentations by Bolton based voluntary organisations that had been recognised by receipt of the Queens Award for Voluntary Service to their Community. These were, Urban Outreach, Bolton Mountain Rescue, Girl Guides Association and Explode Magazine. Notably this was the only occasion to date that four such awards had been given to organisations in one town in the same year. Great stuff!

## 6. Vice Chair's report

The Vice Chair reported on her attendance at the last meeting of the Autism Partnership Board (APB) held on 9<sup>th</sup> August at Castle Hill Campus.

The Vice Chair said no agenda had been provided before the meeting and there been no prior notification of what was to be discussed, which she felt left her somewhat unprepared when asked to provide an update on the work of BAAS.

There had been a written report from Breaking Barriers on the expenditure of the grant given to BB totalling £18.5k and which has been spent on refurbishments to Commerce House (Parents and Carers room) and to the shop premises on Bradshaw Gate to provide a 'respite/quiet' room for people with ASCs. Roselle circulated a copy of the report from BB together with a report from ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services in England).

Roselle had reported to the APB details of BAAS's Befriending service proposal and had explained how this differed from the proposals being pursued by BB.

There was discussion at the APB on the way forward regarding completion of the Self Assessment Framework, a document that has to be completed by the Local Authority indicating the progress on provision of Autism Services which are rated Red, Amber or Green (RAG) and returned to the Government. This report will be receiving further attention by the APB.

The Vice Chair also reported on her contribution to the ASC Training session at Prestwich Hospital on 16<sup>th</sup> August. She explained that both she and the Chairman had, over the past twelve months or so both assisted at the training sessions by speaking on 'A parent/Carers perspective on raising a child with Autism'.

## 7. Carers Trips

The Chairman circulated a schedule of trips to various locations that had been arranged for parents/carers to take place from mid September to end of February 2017. The trips had been organised following confirmation that a grant application from BAAS to Bolton CVS had been successful and an award of £1000.00 had been received by BAAS.

## **8. Any other business**

The next meeting to be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016