

BOLTON ADULT ASPERGER SUPPORT

Minutes of meeting 29th June 2016 2-4pm at Thicketford Community Care Centre

The meeting was Chaired by Roselle Gorman, Vice Chair, as the Chairman was on a well earned family holiday.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from our Chairman, Graham Heywood, Eira Heywood and Helen Green.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 25th May 2016

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

Befriending service. The Chairman is pursuing Grant monies for the Befriending service.

Yvonne Ashworth was interested in Bolton Council's interactive group in Horwich, particularly for her son, Tom, whilst he is unoccupied during the College summer break. She will make enquiries at their forthcoming evening meeting.

Members present were impressed by the number of meetings the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman have attended on behalf of our group, and presentations carried out by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to share experiences from the perspective of parents/carers bringing up children with Autism/Asperger. The Autism Awareness training sessions were organised by Helen Bucke, Occupational Therapist/Team Manager of the ASC Support Team in Bolton, and her team as part of the TES (Trafford Extended Service). Helen advises that our input has been much valued, has received fantastic evaluations and their courses are now over-subscribed. As a result, the group has received a donation of £500 from NWTDT to March 2016. Further presentations have been requested, one of which took place in Salford on 24th May and a further is booked for 16th August 2016 at Prestwich Hospital, Manchester.

Members present were enthusiastic to become involved in the University of Bolton's 'Patient and Carer Involvement Initiative' teaching programme. Roselle explained that the Chairman is in communication with Bimpe Kuti at Bolton University, however their plans are still at an early stage.

The Chairman and Vice Chair represented BAAS at the Carers Information Event at the Britannia Hotel, Bolton on 7th June 2016. The event was well attended and gave an opportunity to hand out BAAS' new leaflet.

4. Leaflet

Members agreed the new leaflet was eye catching and very professional. Each member took copies to place into their local G/P surgery and other suitable venues.

5. Carers Trips 2016

The Chairman has submitted an application for funding, the deadline for which is 4th July 2016.

6. Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) course

Barbara Brooks & Yvonne Ashworth were interested in attending this course to be held at Castle Hill Centre, Bolton. Roselle gave details for members to book their preferred date and advised that she and her husband Eddie Gorman will be joining the Chairman on the course on the 11th October 2016, should they too wish to book the same date.

7. AOB

Yvonne advised that adults get-together events are being organised and run by Catherine Marsh, ASC Support Team in Bolton, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month 1-3pm at Commerce House, Bolton. The next meeting is to take place on 12th July. Yvonne will obtain and email Roselle with more information.

8. Date/s of next meetings

Wednesday 27th July at 2.00pm at Thicketford Community Care Centre.

Drop –in: Saturday 30th July 2-4pm at Commerce House.

Open Forum

There was opportunity to chat about recent experiences:

- a) Particular problems with Facebook and the lies and offensive messages against our members' young adults with autism. One in particular which involved the Police having to be called in to investigate on behalf of the victim.
- b) Improving awareness of autism and its issues e.g. employers.
- c) Difficulties in occupying the time for our young adults during the college break.
- d) Other family members not understanding the need for 'so much attention' given to the autistic family member, with phrases like "Why can't he go by himself, why do you always have to go with him?"
- e) A young man, who is sure that he has Asperger, having recently approached our Chairman seeking advice. Having been advised to see his G.P. and request a consultation for a diagnosis, he was refused the request and is now seeking an appointment with another G.P. He is keeping in touch with our Chairman regarding the outcome.
- f) Members agreed that it helps to share these experiences.