

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 30th 2016
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As the end of another calendar year approaches and a new business year begins, it is with pride that we can look back over the past year and reflect on our modest but steady growth as we continue to strive to be a significant contributor to the ongoing improvement of the health and wellbeing of families impacted by Autism Spectrum Conditions. Not least, this forward movement is seen in our recent change of name from Bolton Adult Asperger Support to Bolton Adult Autism Support. This change of name reflects the growing trend of health professionals to recognise that Asperger Syndrome is but one condition amongst many on the Autism Spectrum and further, it reflects our outward looking and all-embracing vision for the improvement of the lives of autism families.

The past year has seen a number of our very committed and hard - working members succumb to the effects of ageing that has resulted in less opportunity for them to attend meetings and other activities. Nonetheless, we continue to remember them with gratitude and fondness and wish them all the very best in the year ahead.

During the past year, trustees have supported the proposal to establish a Befriending service for family members on the spectrum and trustees are actively seeking funding for this exciting project that will become an extremely valuable service for some of the most vulnerable and isolated members of our community.

Carers' trips continue to play an important role in our year of events and thanks to the Carers Grant from Bolton CVS we have again this year been able to offer an exciting and varied programme of respite visits to venues both near and far.

There seem to be so many meetings for our trustees to attend that inevitably they have to be prioritised according to limits on trustees' availability and of course importance to our parents and carers. Notwithstanding this criteria, BAAS has been represented at no less than 45 meetings over the past year and we have more to attend before we celebrate Christmas with our very own Christmas party for our parents and carer members.

Of these meetings, whilst all are important, I would like to mention just a few ongoing commitments for the Chairman, Vice Chair and Secretary. These include input to Autism Awareness Training for professional health staffs organised by Greater Manchester West NHS Trust; Health and Wellbeing forum; Community and Voluntary Sector forum; Independent Advisory group; Bolton CVS Conference and AGM (of which BAAS is a full member); Autism Partnership Board and Bolton Parent and Carer Consortium.

We continue to signpost and offer support to anyone with or who think they may have an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and their families. Over the past year we have assisted a number of such people and their families with very positive results. Some of these have been reported upon as case studies and featured by Bolton Council in their Autism Self Assessment Framework submission to Her Majesty's Government.

As Chairman of BAAS I consider myself fortunate indeed to have the support and dedication of fellow trustees who have work tirelessly on behalf of BAAS this past year. I thank them all most sincerely and if elected as Chairman for the forthcoming term, will continue to do my very best on behalf of our charity and for all those families we seek to serve.

Graham Heywood

Chairman

**We pay tribute to the following organisations which have supported us
throughout the year 2015/2016**

Ants Junction

ASC Healthcare – Breightmet

Bolton Council (Children's and Adult Services)

Bolton Council (The Print Room)

Bolton Community and Voluntary Services

Bolton Community Transport

Breaking Barriers

Cascade Magazine

Comic Relief

Forever Manchester

Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

JH Coaches

Luxson Ltd

National Autistic Society

NAS Family Services Development Project

Supported Living Solutions (NW) Ltd