

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 29th November 2017 at Thicketford Care & Community Centre

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to members present. He also extended a very warm welcome to Joanne Kennington Co-Coordinator from Greater Manchester Mental Health Team. Apologies for absence were received from Helen Green, Janet Thompson and Alison Thompson. There were ten members present.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on September 27th and 25th October 25th 2017

The minutes of the above meetings were reviewed and which were now to be ratified by this meeting.

3 .Ratification of Minutes held on September 27th and October 25th 2017.

The above minutes of the September and October meetings were ratified by members.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the September and October 2017 Minutes.

5. Election of Trustees (executive officers) and non executive officers for the year 2017/18

Executive Officers -

Chairman – Graham Heywood
Vice Chair – Roselle Gorman
Secretary – Barbara Brooks
Treasurer – Anna Polichnowska (absent)

The above named persons were proposed and duly elected to serve for a further twelve months

Election of non-executive officers

Eira Heywood – Safeguarding Officer
Yvonne Ashworth – committee member
Elaine Birch – committee member

The above named persons were proposed and duly elected to serve.

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman confirmed it was a privilege to continue as Chairman although it had been a demanding role which also extended once more to the duties of Treasurer throughout 2016/17.

He reminded members present that there had been a number of achievements during the year. We had received financial encouragement from our funders for the New Year ahead (Bolton Council and National Lottery) although the task of obtaining funding still presented an enormous challenge. Our accounts indicated that we now need to increase our free reserves, most of our capital being ring-fenced for our Befriending Service.

The Chairman went on to discuss the successful itinerary of carers' trips held during the year and for which Bolton Council had advised would be extended to 2019.

The Chairman spoke of the continuing work he was involved with on behalf of the Charity in pursuing an autism friendly Bolton. This work will clearly continue for a number of years but at least the Council had declared itself committed to the task.

The Chairman acknowledged all the continuing support from various organisations and partners within the Bolton community.

The Chairman and Vice Chair had, between them, represented BAAS at the following meetings during the past 12 months in addition to private meetings with parents and carers:

- Autism awareness training sessions (providing a parent/carers perspective on bringing up sons with ASC) 5 meetings at various venues both in and out of Bolton.
- Community and Voluntary sector Forum at the Hub (4 meetings)
- Health and Well-being Forum at the hub (5 meetings)
- IAG meetings at the Bolton police headquarters and Bolton University (5 meetings)
- Co-design partnership in Manchester (2 meetings)
- Bolton Vision Conference (2 meetings)
- Visit to Print Unit (2 meetings)
- Visit to Brightmet Autism Centre (Computer management discussions) 3 meetings
- Bolton CVS Annual General meeting at the Hub
- Bolton Together AGM meeting at the Hub
- CVS free courses at The Hub (2)
- Autism Partnership Board (2 meetings of which I am aware)
- Future strategy/planning and funding (3 meetings)
- CVS Voluntary Carers Week (1)
- CVS Networking Event (1 meeting)
- Autism Show held in Manchester (1)
- ETAG meeting at The Hub (1 meeting of which I am aware)

7. Hon. Secretary's Report

The Hon. Secretary spoke to her report, previously circulated and in which she referred to the Carers schedule of trips, confirming the Chairman's view of a successful, valuable and much valued series of visits to an exciting number of venues. She also spoke of the need for more members and of the excellent number of speakers at our meetings whose presentations we had enjoyed enormously.

8. Treasurers Report

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, the Chairman introduced the statement of expenditure and income for the period 2016/17. He drew attention to the increased outflow of expenditure, related mostly to the carers trips and highlighted the increasing costs of transport as a cause of concern, this item had increased by as much as a fifth over the previous year. This item prompted a discussion on visits to future venues and members agreed it would be necessary to look at venues much closer to Bolton for next year's trips assuming our bid for financial support next year was successful.

Insurance Liability costs have increased more than 100% with the future employment of a Co-ordinator post for the Befriending Plus service to be launched in 2018.

Currently, more than half the financial resources were from the National Lottery to pay for Volunteer recruitment and management.

Finally, the Chairman paid tribute to all funders of our activities, drawing particular attention to one off donations from organisations including locally based Motorcise.

9. Vice Chair's report of the Bolton Together AGM on 8th November 2017

The Vice Chair distributed her report of the above meeting that had been chaired by Jennie Smith, Independent Trustee of Bolton Together. Jennie gave a brief resume of meetings that she had attended and said she looked forward to reports from meetings that were to be distributed in due course.

Kathy Evans, CEO of Children England addressed the meeting giving 'a most interesting and informative report entitled 'A National Perspective for Children and Young People' which Kathy delivered with the help of modified diagram of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. There were a number of other interesting presentations from people in attendance including Darren Knight Chief Officer of Bolton CVS and David Bagley, CEO of Urban Outreach. A full report of this meeting attended by Roselle our Vice-Chair can be found on our website along with other reports of our AGM 2017.

10. AOB

The Vice Chair brought to the attention of those present:

- a) Quoting an article in the Bolton News dated 26th October 2017, stating that one of our members, Supported Living Solutions, Bolton were awarded a 2017 'Good' report from Bolton's CQC. Congratulations are due to the Management and staff.
- b) Two lady representatives from Healthwatch Bolton have offered to come along to one of our future meetings to explain how their services operate for the Bolton community in health and social care planning.
- c) The Chairman and Vice Chair are to attend the Bolton Vision Conference on 30th January 2018.

Date of next meeting: 28th February 2018. (No meetings in December or January).

Following the meeting all enjoyed a festive hot and cold buffet.